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AUTOGRAF

NEW YORK CITY'S GRAFFITI WRITERS

BY PETER SUTHERLAND Text by REVS

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AUTOGRAF

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AUTOGRAF

AUTOGRAF: NEW YORK CITY'S GRAFFITI WRITERS BY PETER SUTHERLAND

Text by REVS

pH powerHouse Books New York, NY

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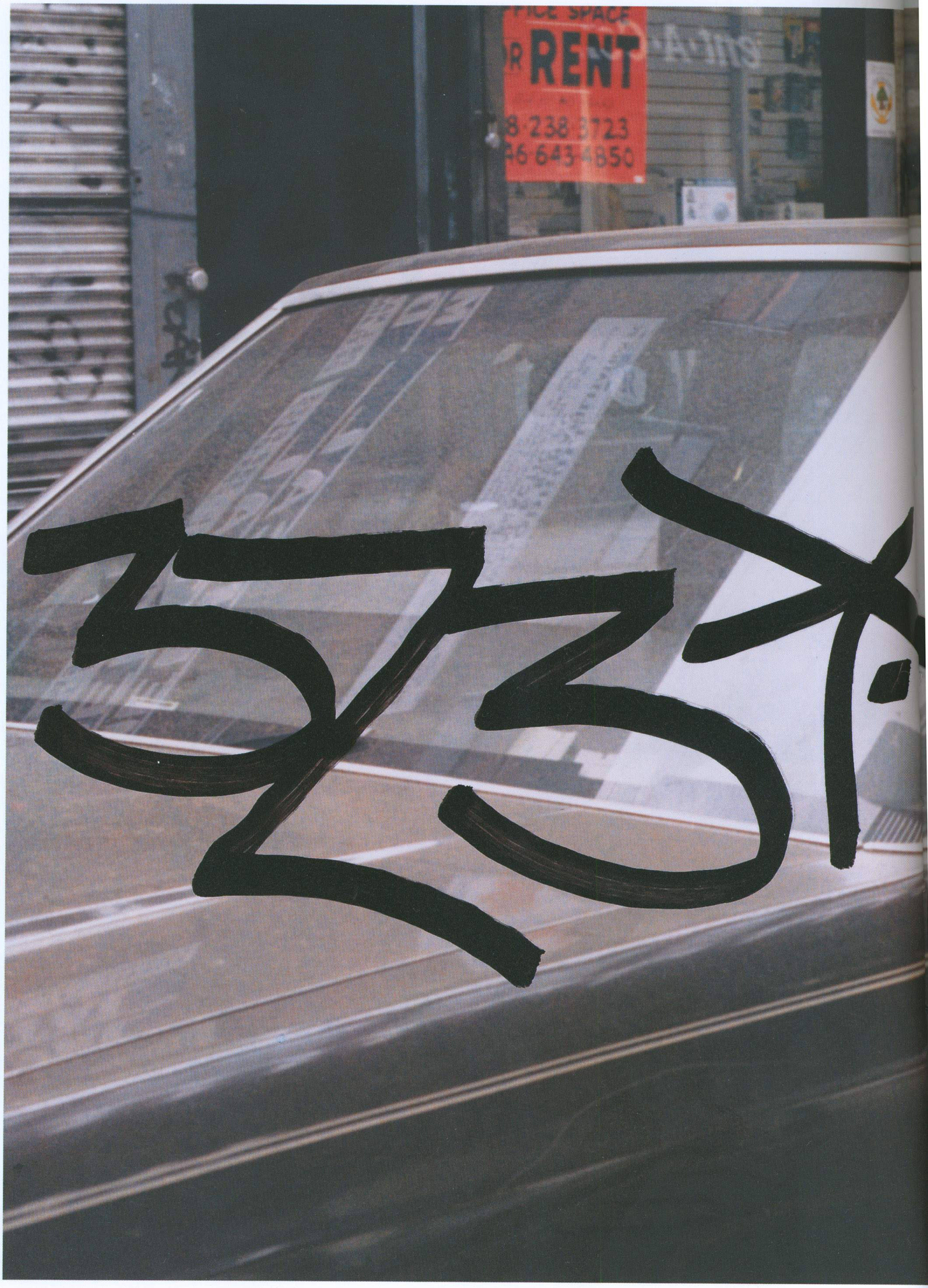
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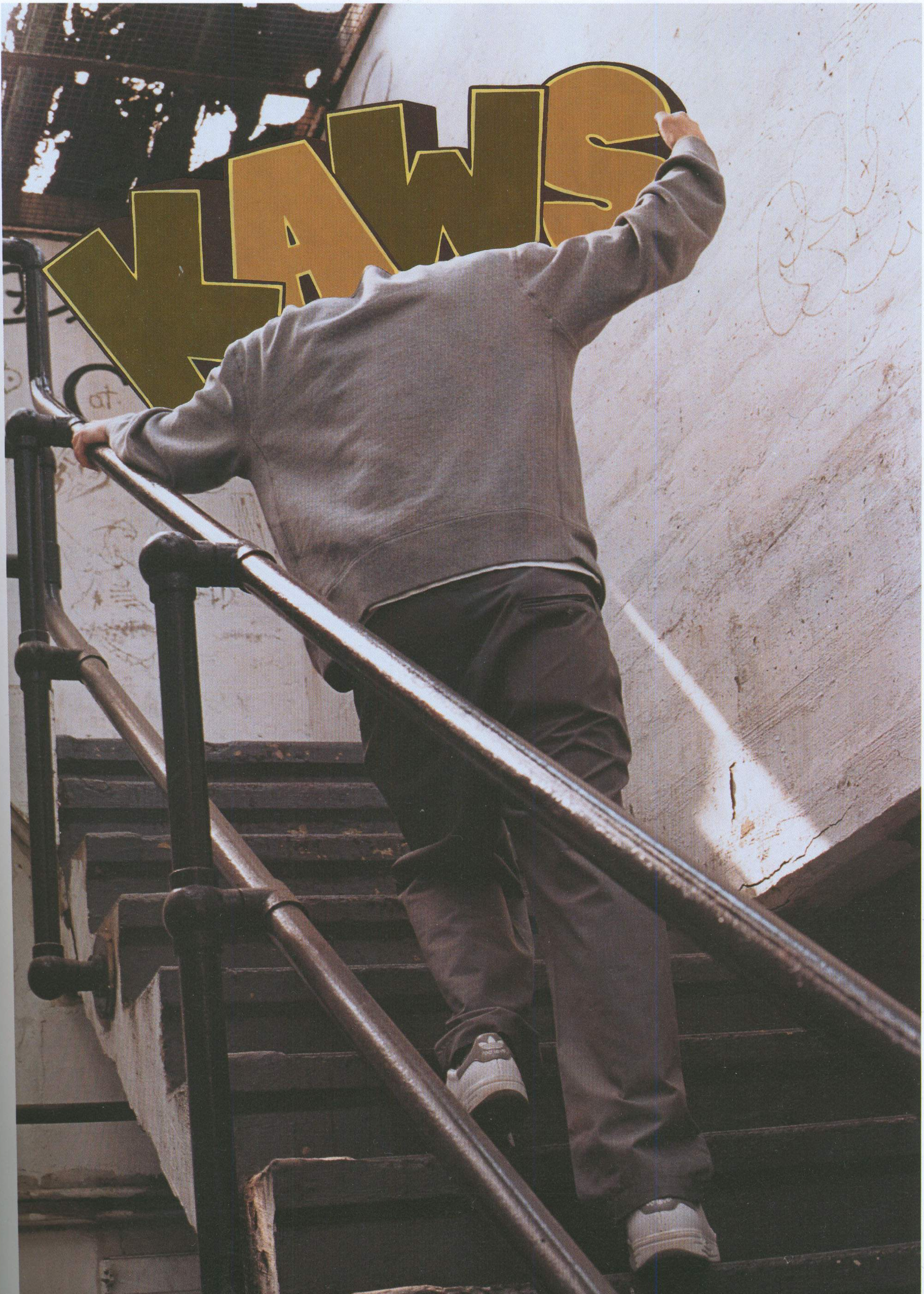
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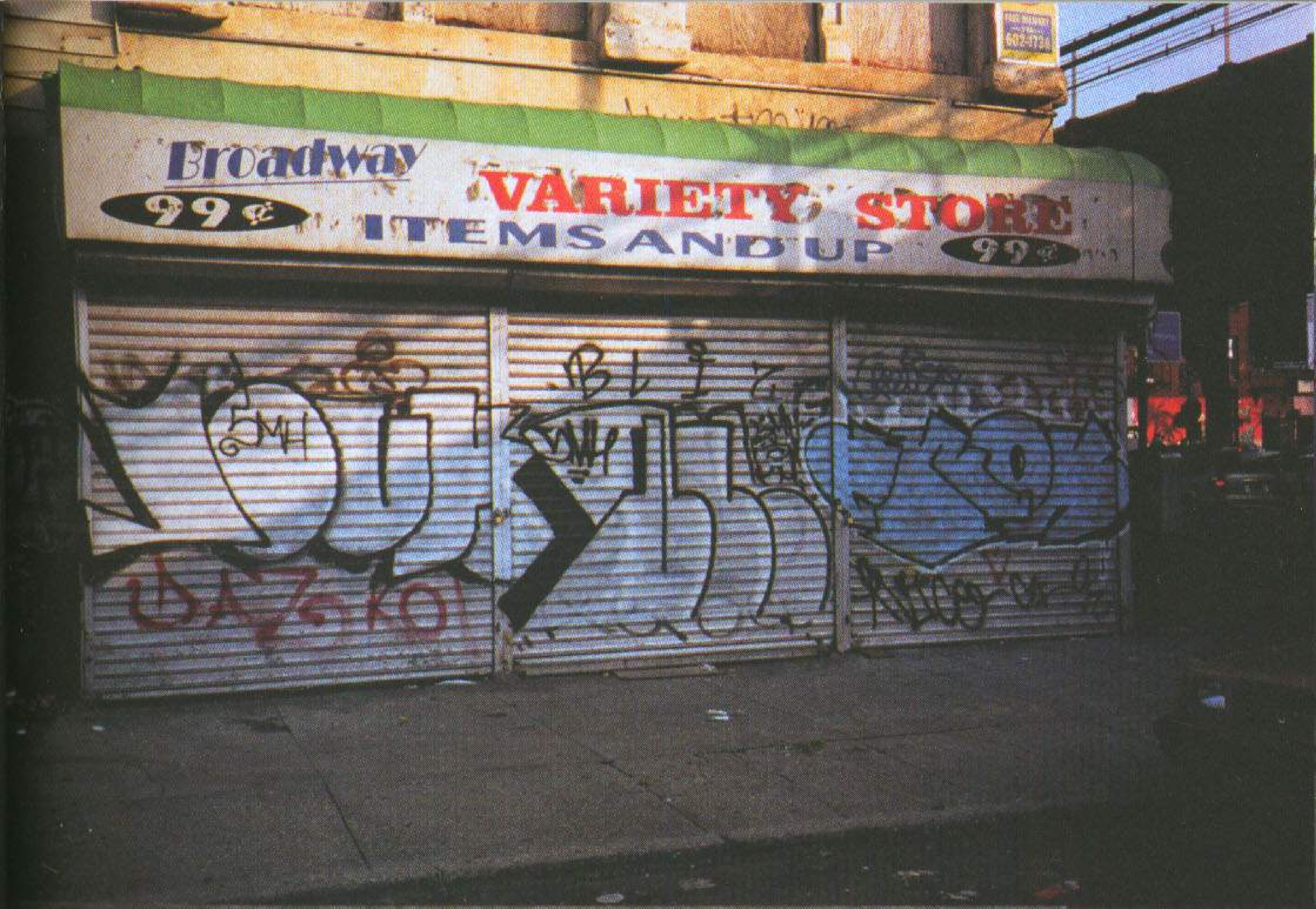
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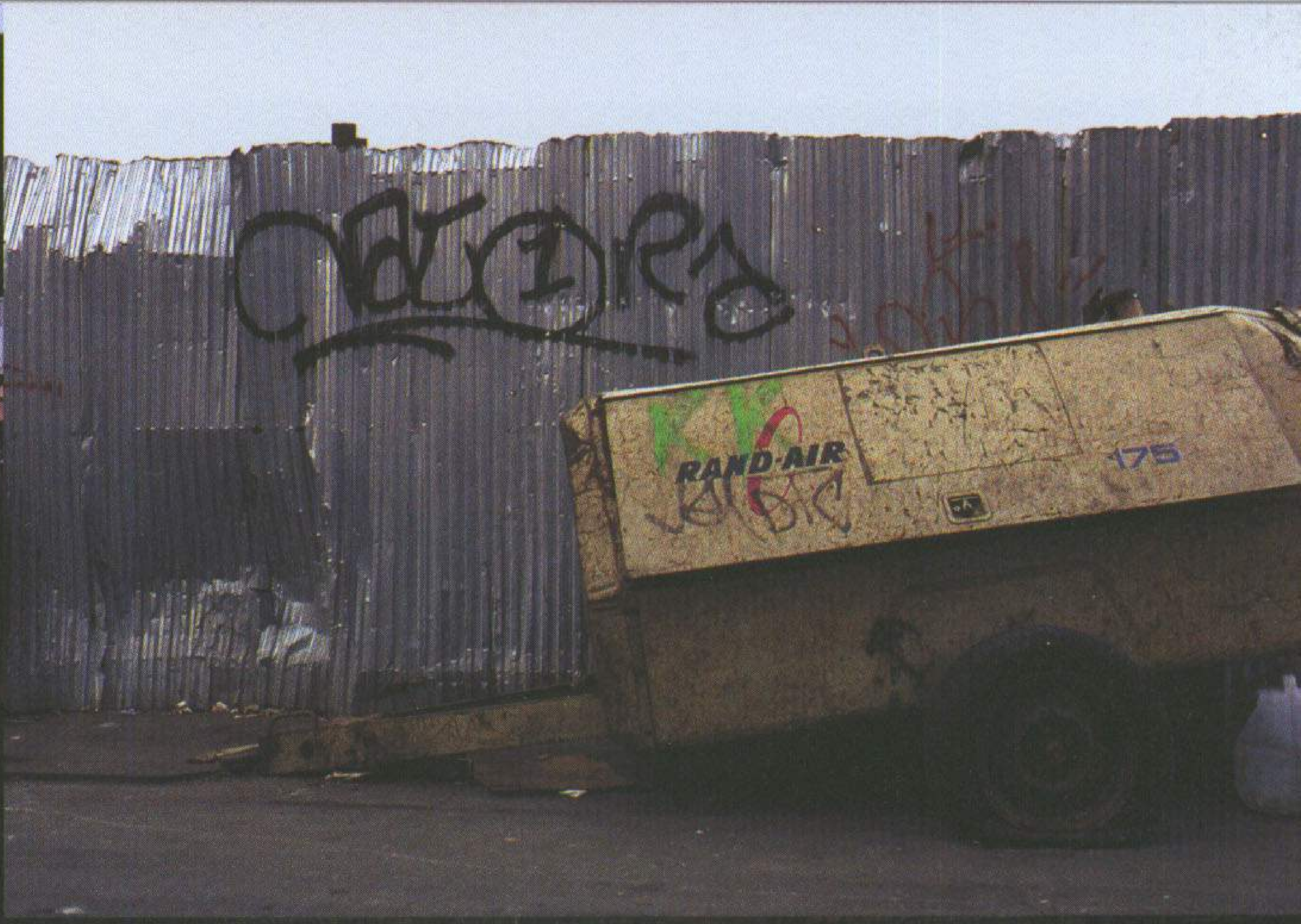
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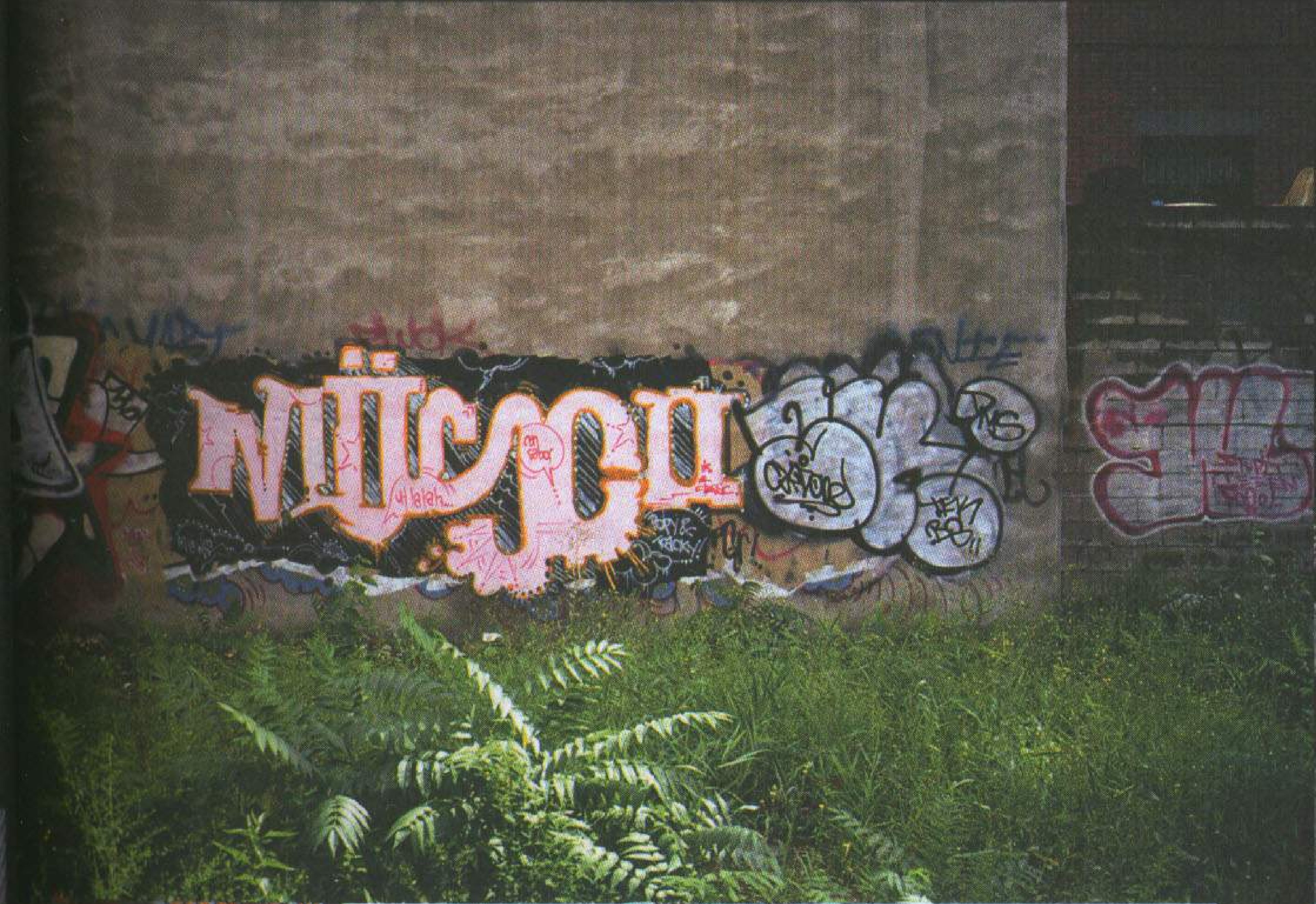

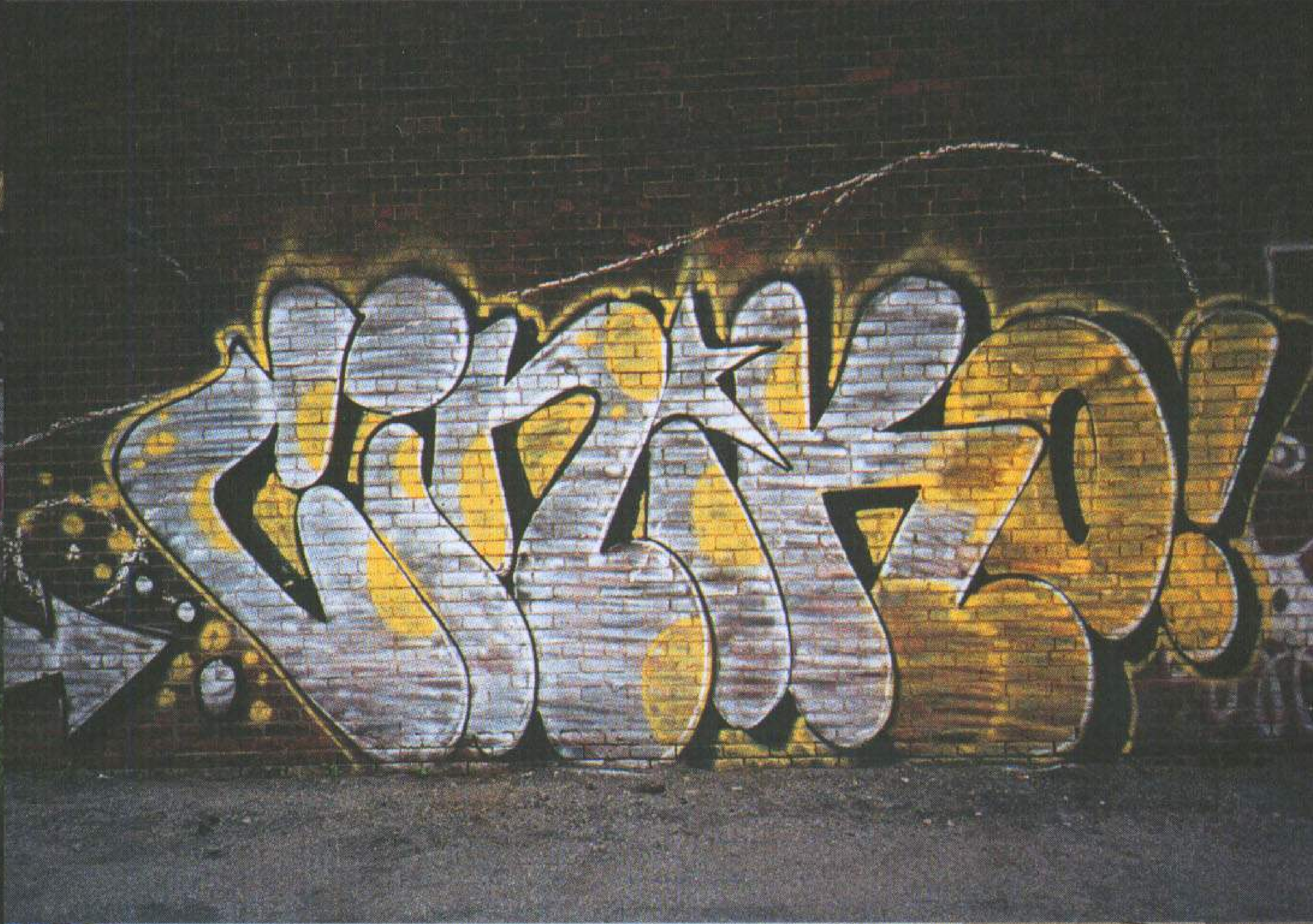

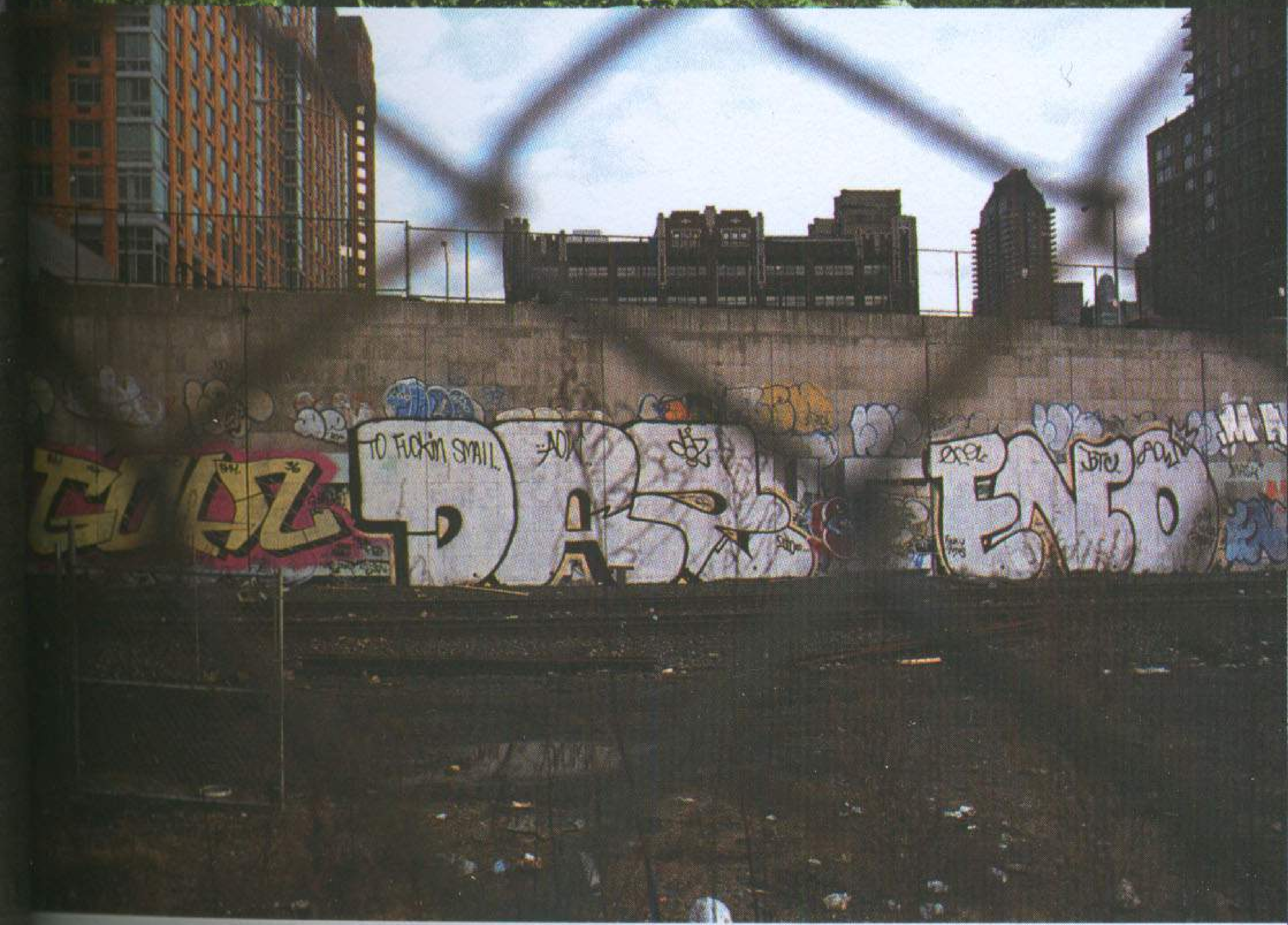
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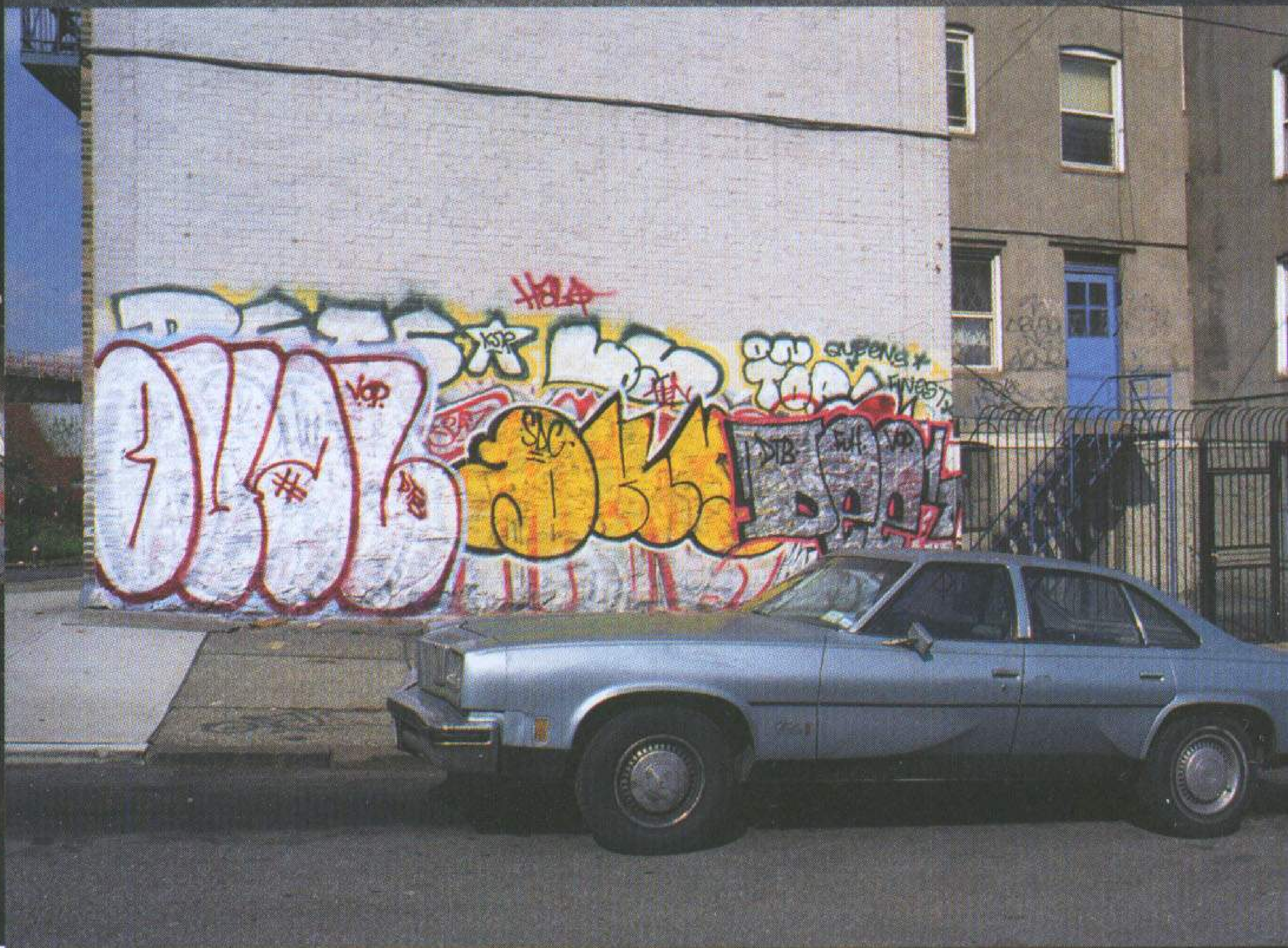

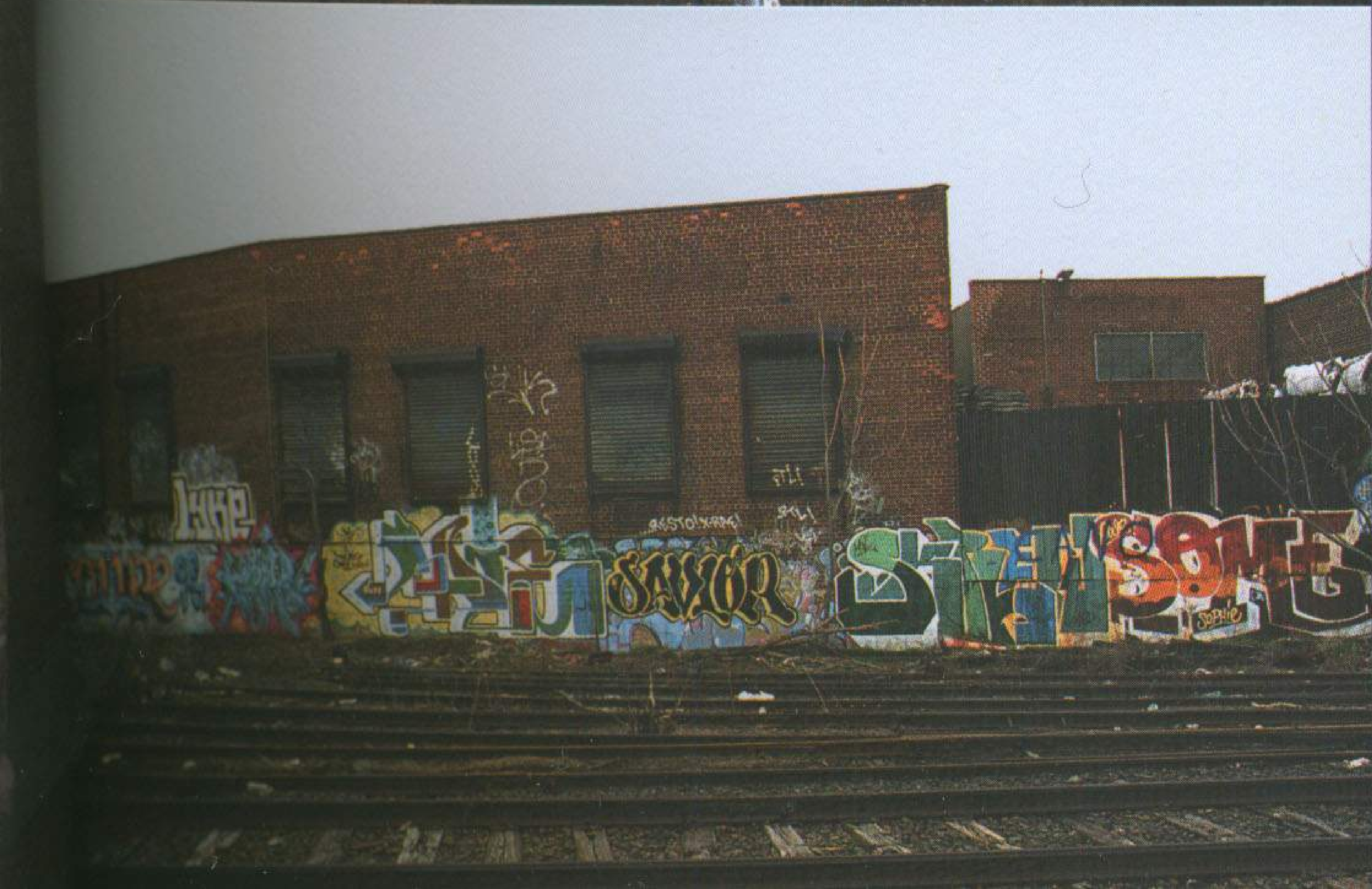

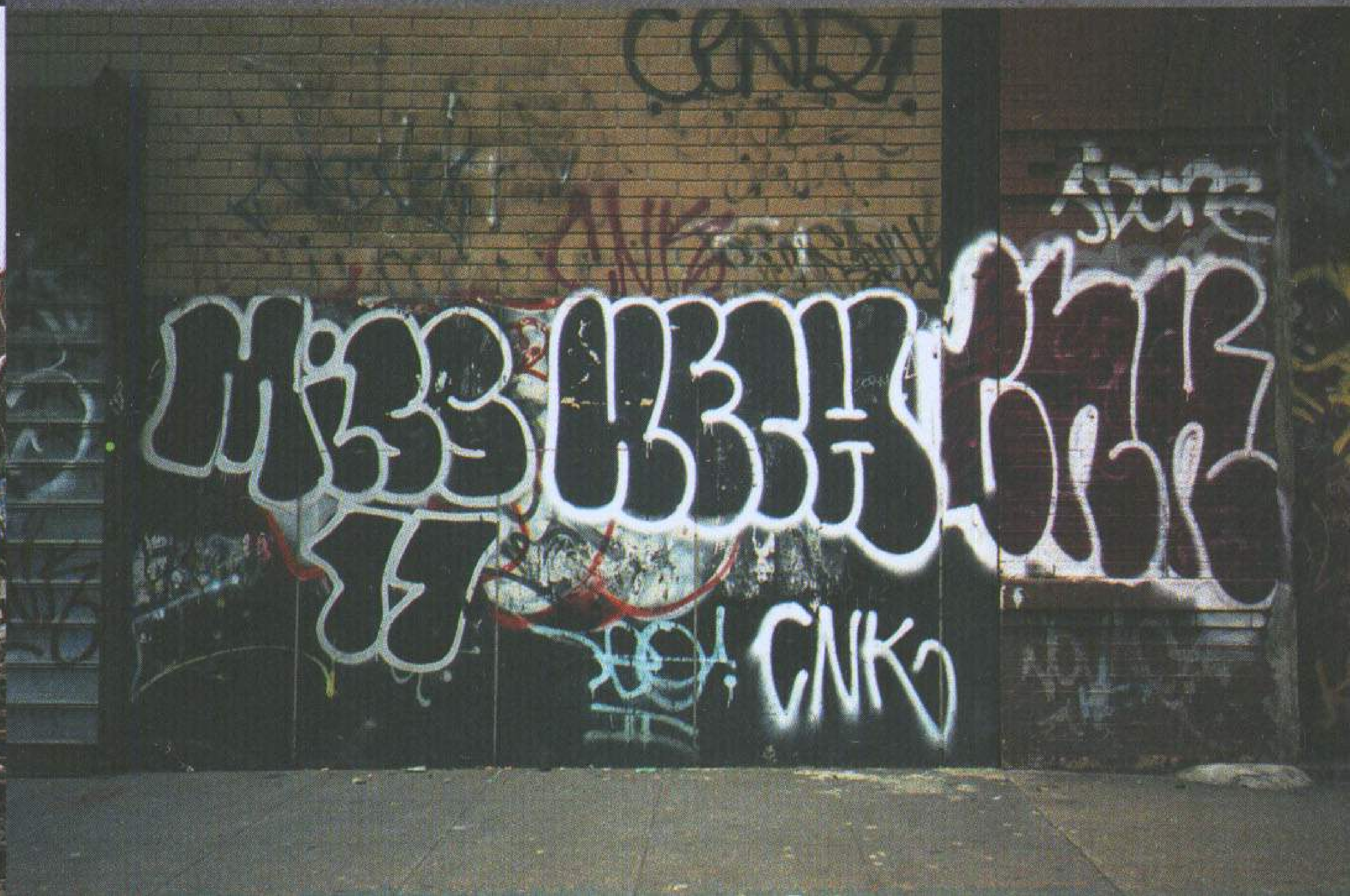
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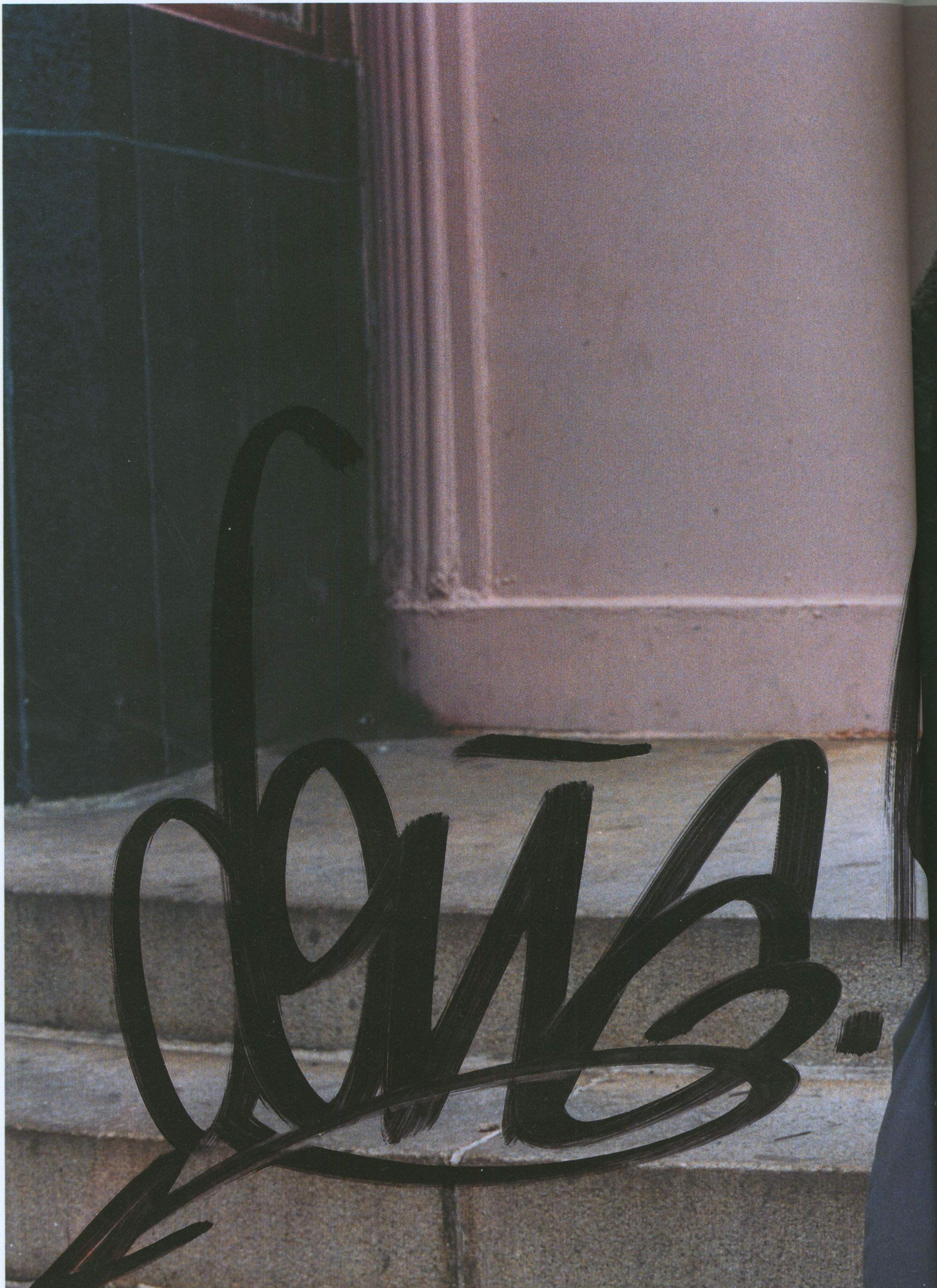

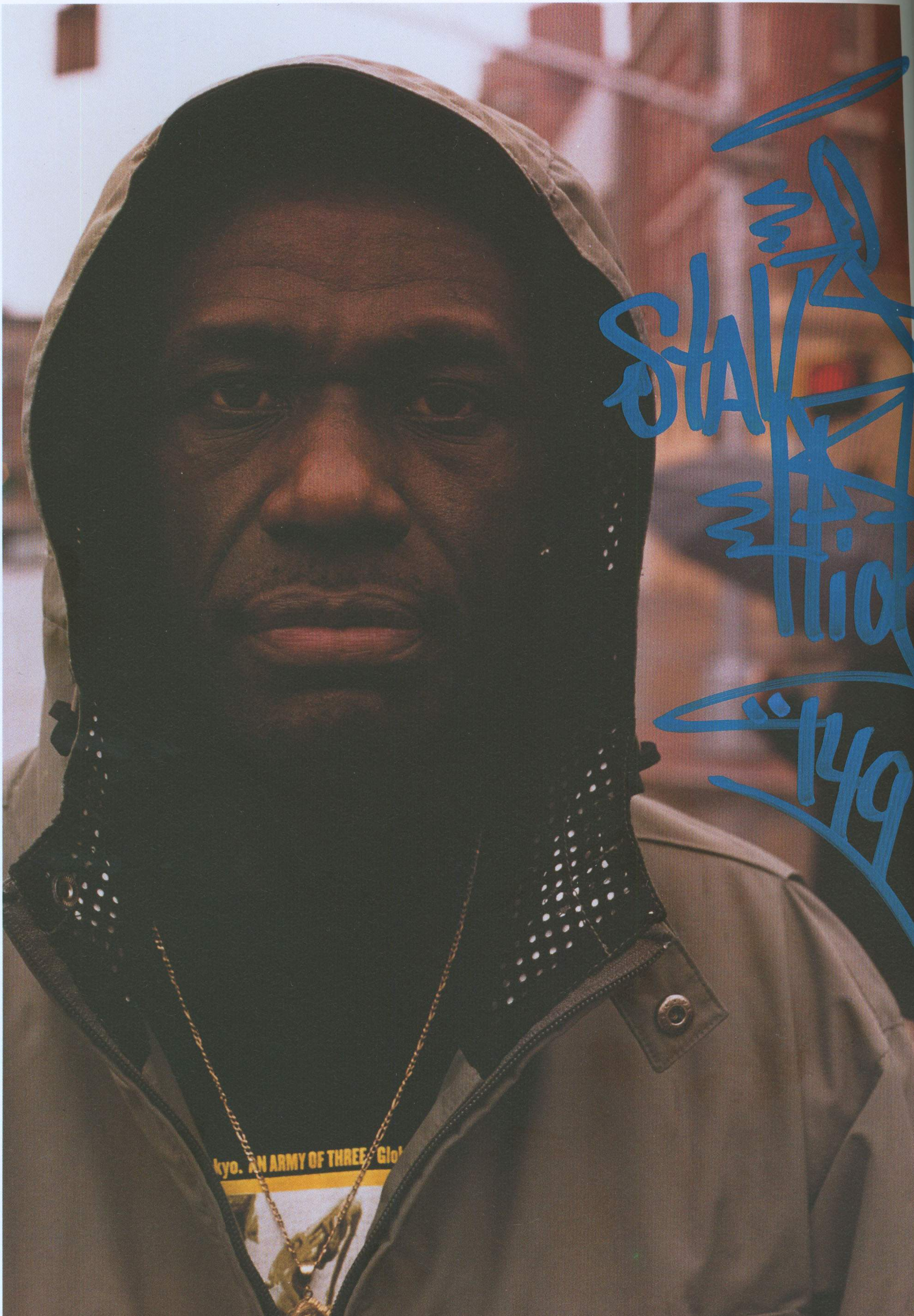
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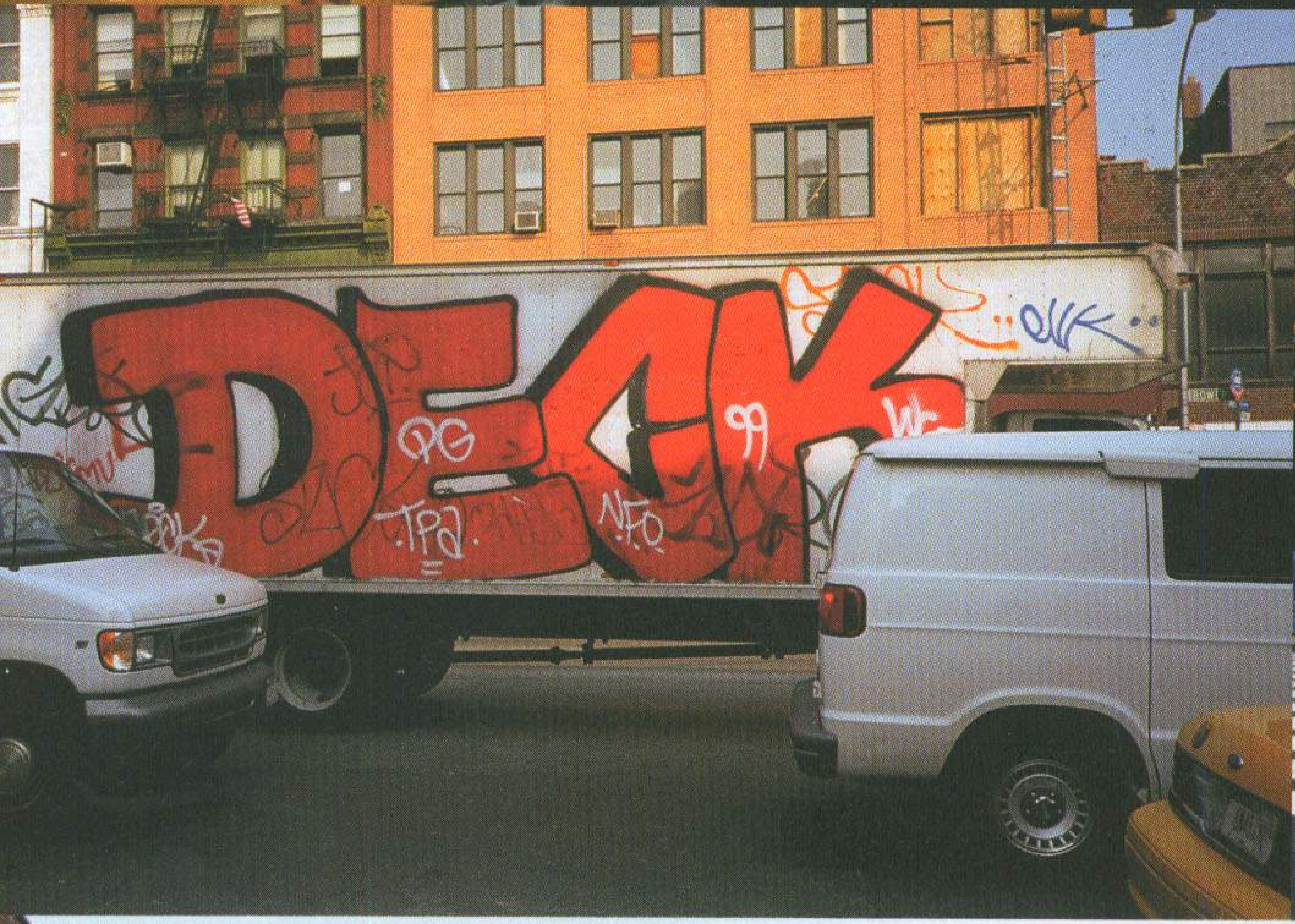

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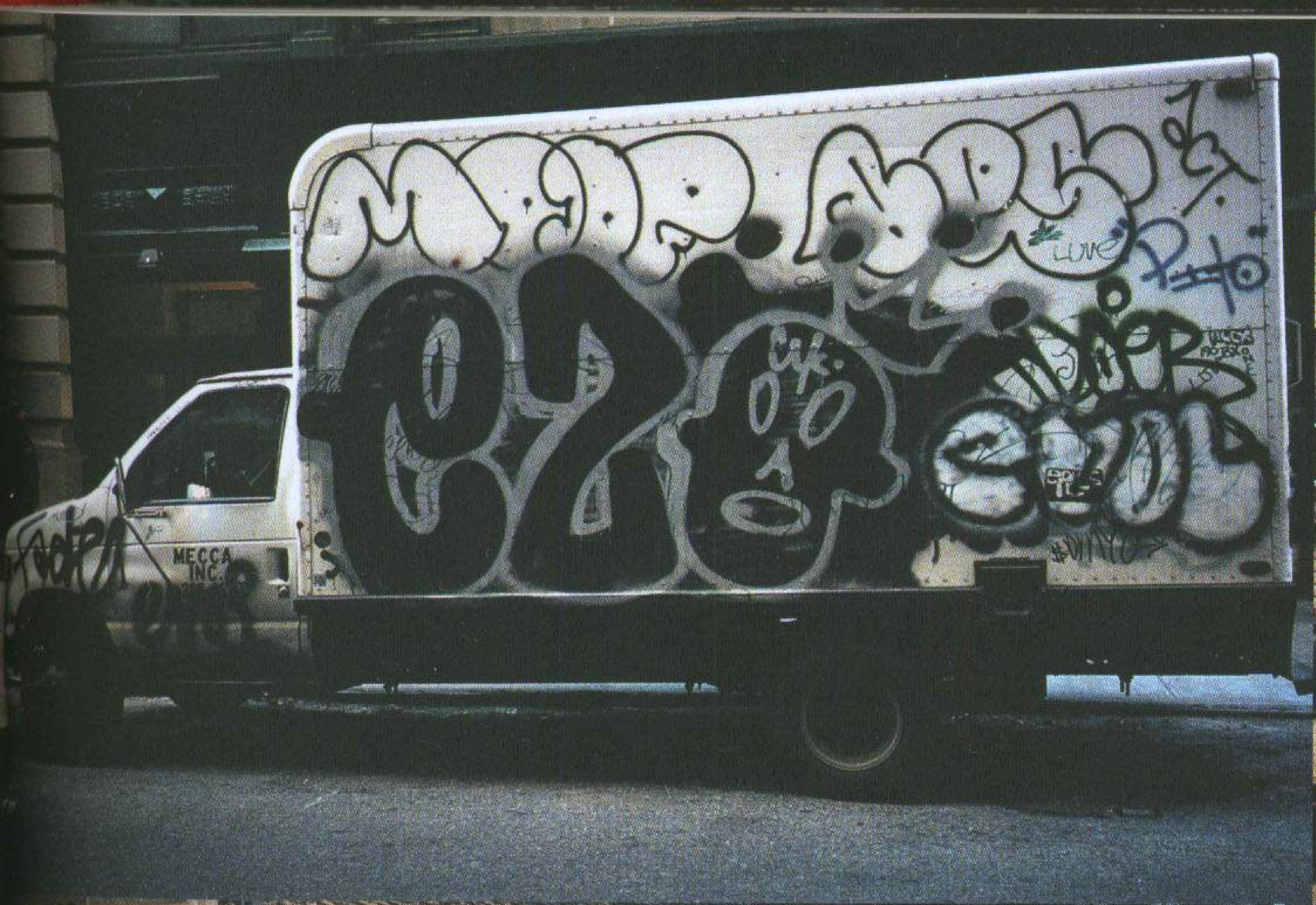
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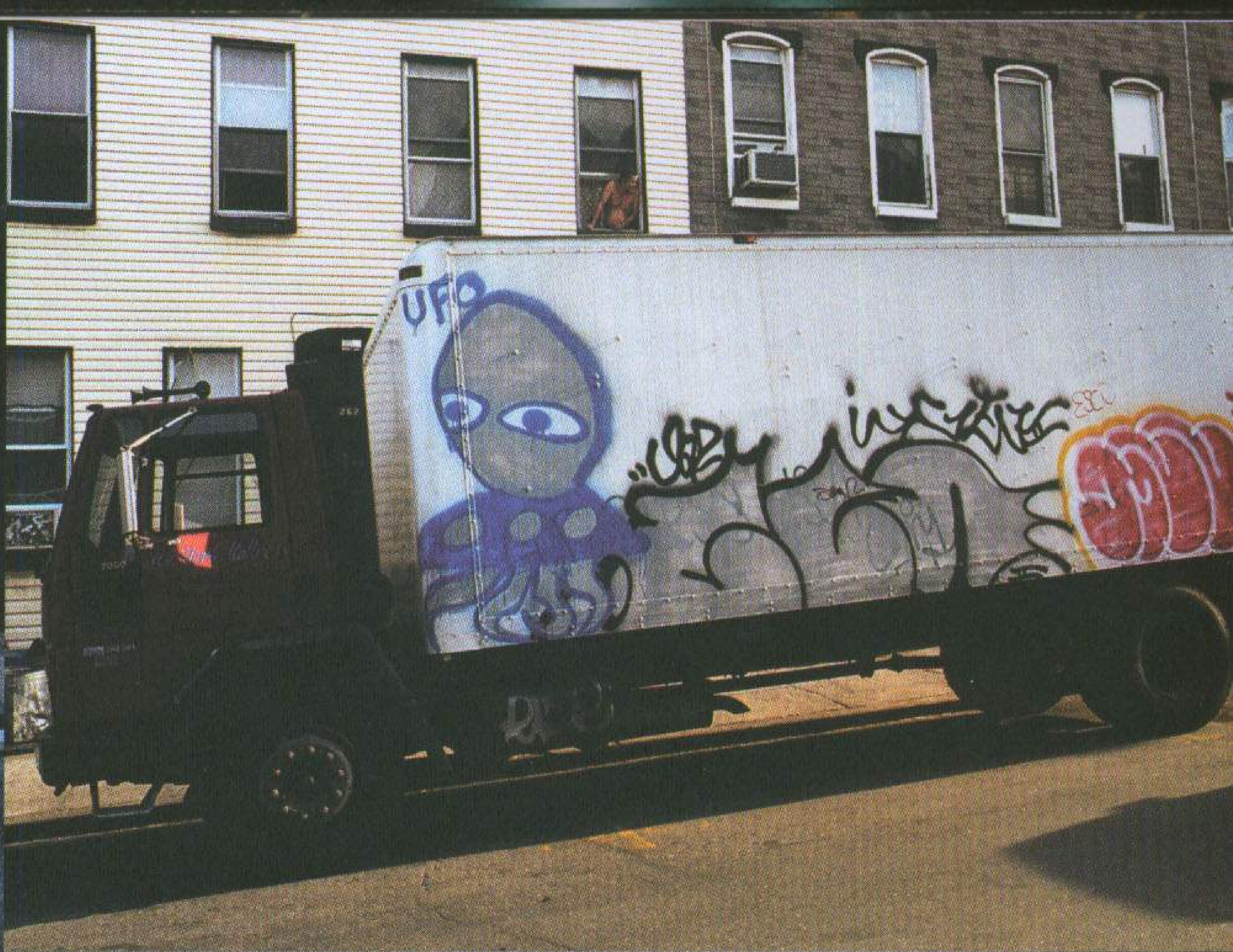
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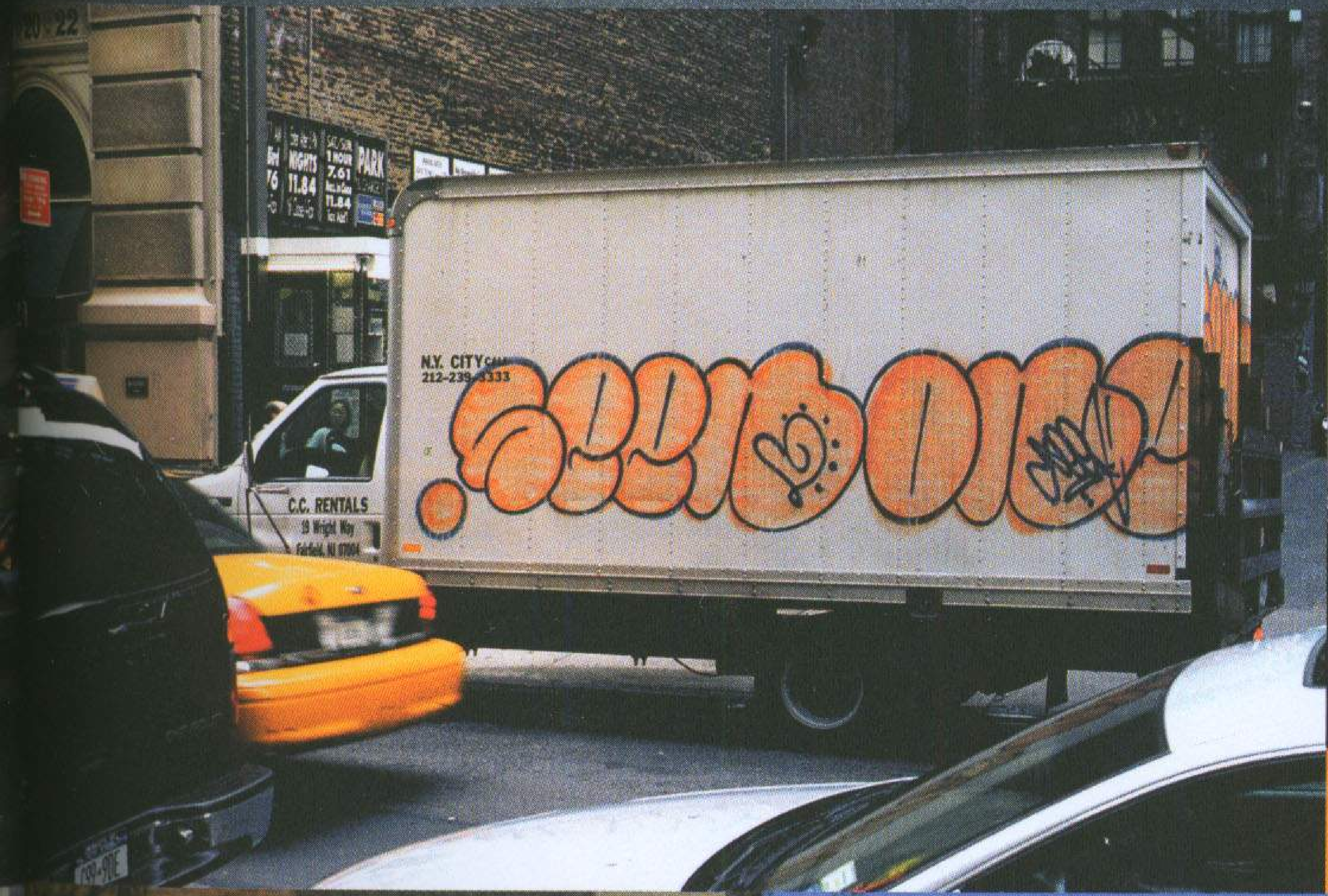
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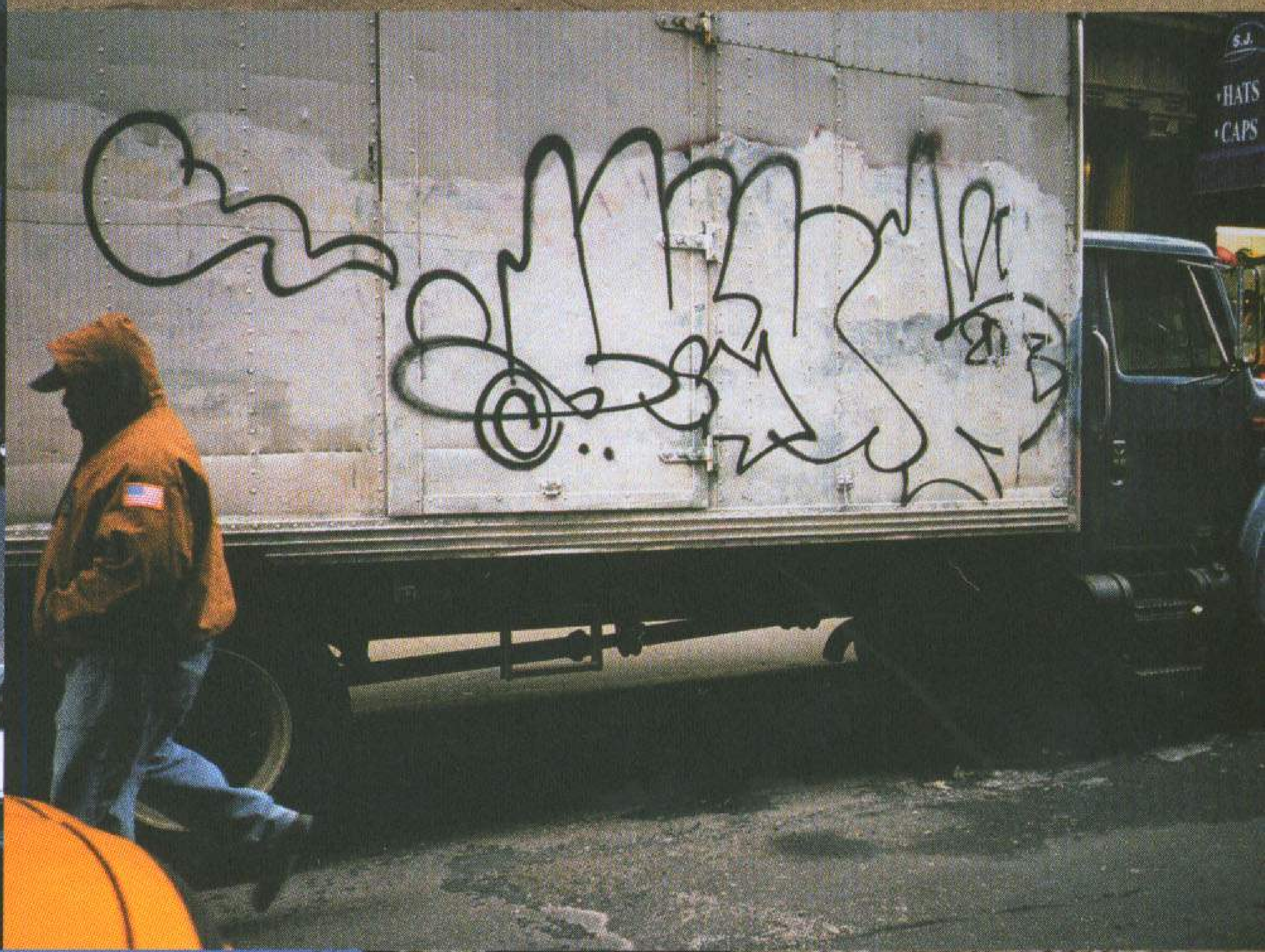
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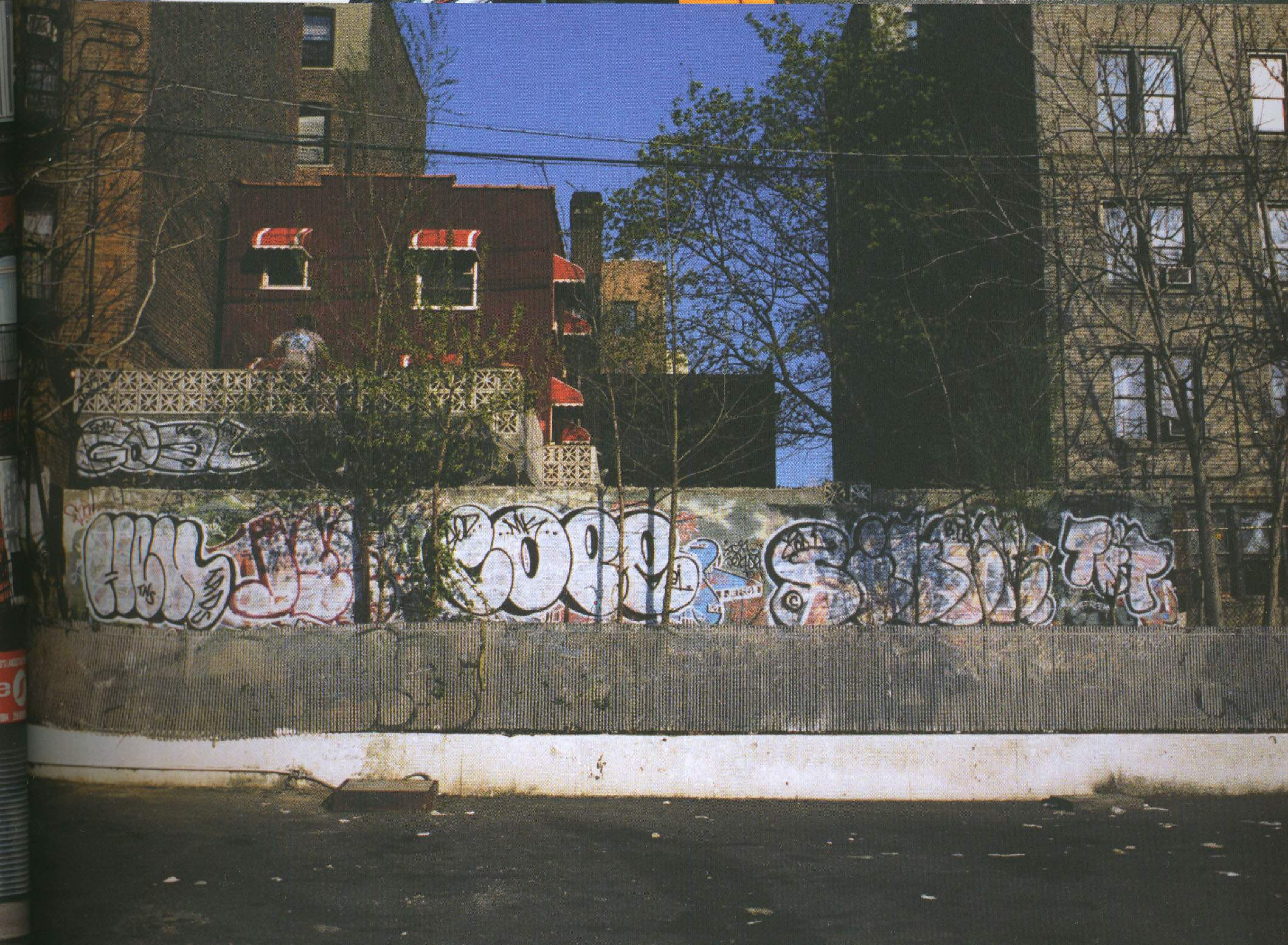

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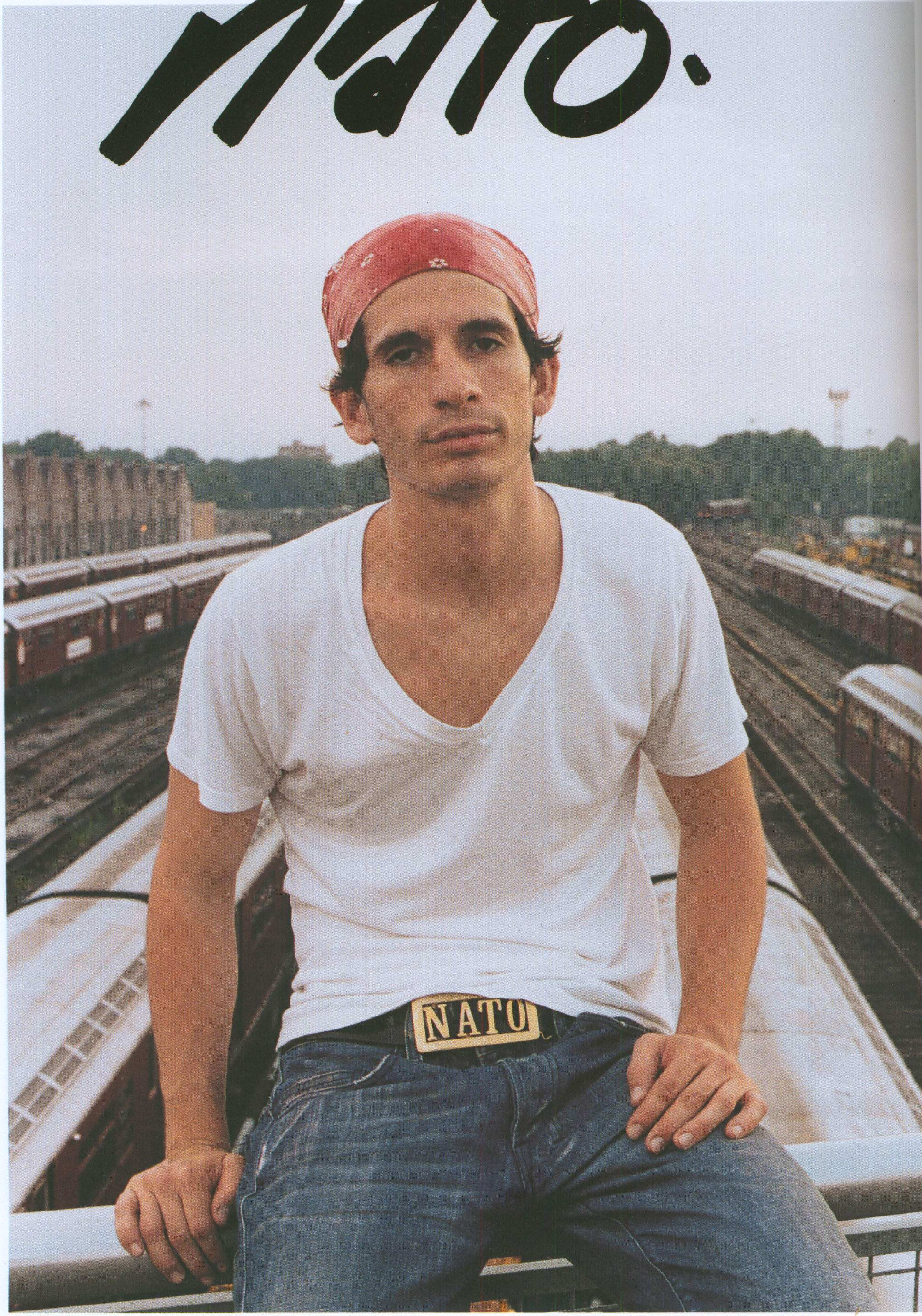

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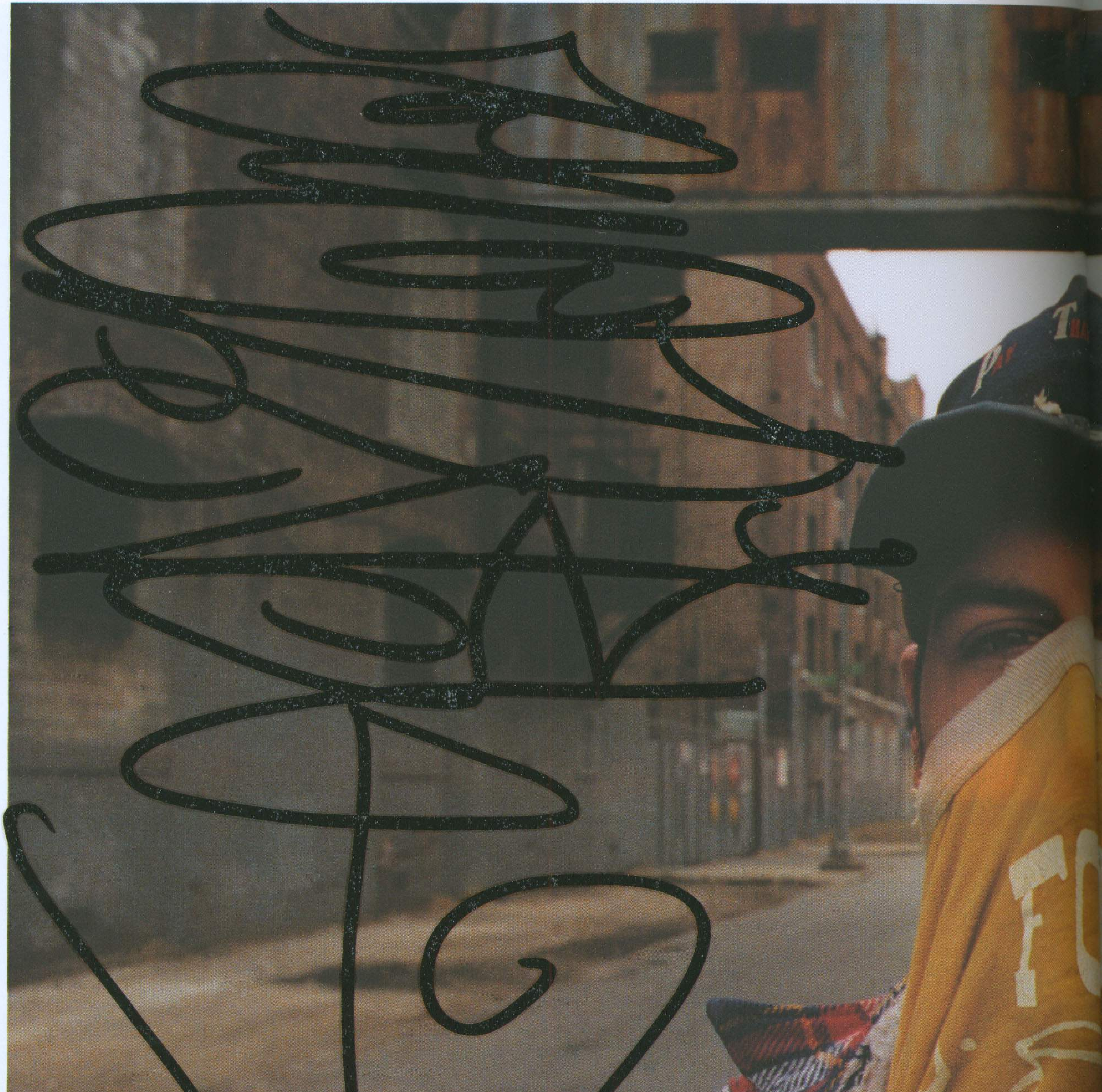

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—Everybodies got an "angle" & theres more whores in the game now then there used to be on the [illegible] Deuce — i liked it better in the "old" days when you had to fight every step of the way to get yours or should i say just to keep your shit! Now, its a big networking social event where everybody makes contacts & jerks each other off — way too many jack-asses!!!!

—in [illegible] 2003 its all about gettin paid for doin as little as possible or sellin yourself as "a cheap product" but then again they forced us into this..... just remember "you are just a product!!" — thats why i avoid most projects, people & shows. & if i may quote "Mr Antisocial" himself.... "Fuck Everybody!!!"

—When i first heard about this book, i was suspect.... after all who is this guy & why does he wanna photograff "outlaw writers" maybe thats why it took me about a year to get back to him — i just wasnt sure & im still skeptical but lets hope for the best — as i quizzed "Pete" i found out he wasnt from N.Y. (but that shouldnt be no big surprise nowadays) & he wasnt too up on things... but that doesnt necessarily have to be a bad thing — after all look at "Henry" when he first started — he didnt know much but his motives were pure & you can thank him for givin kids that had nothin & no power, a voice!!! And unfortunately, your voice is the only thing you got — they'll break you anyway they can whether by their rules or their laws — you got a voice... so use it..... wisely!!!

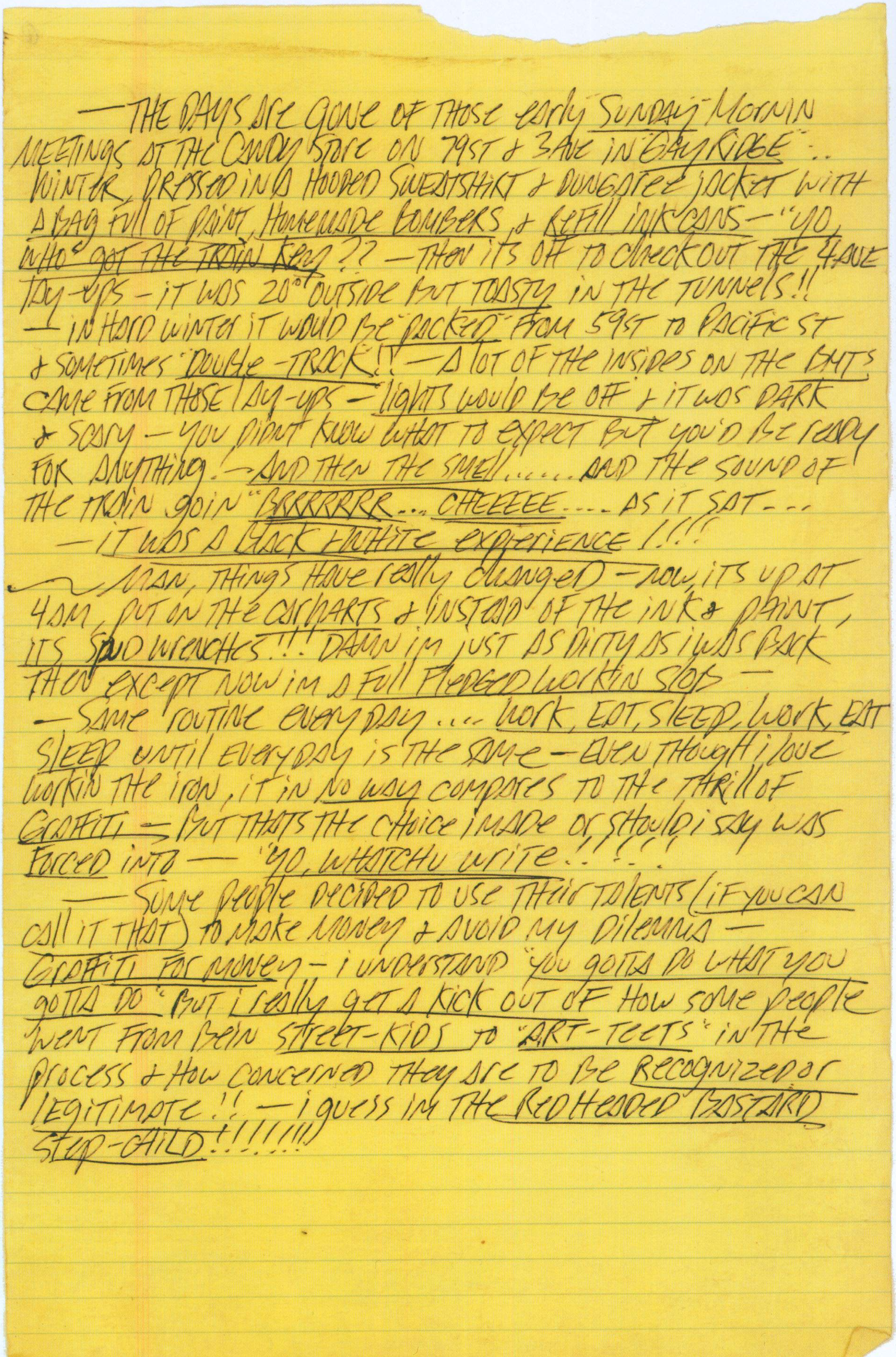
—To me, it all comes down to "motives" — if your motives are faulty it'll show & if your motives are true then that'll show too — unfortunately, they make us play the "whore" force you into a scenario you dont wanna be in & in turn we come up with

OUR FORM OF "GRAFFITI" — WHICH IS JUST A REACTION TO OUR SCENARIO — WHAT YOU GOTTA REMEMBER IS SINCE WE'RE ALL PLAYERS IN THIS GAME & PEOPLE ARE PITTED AGAINST EACH OTHER FOR NON-EXISTENT REASONS SUCH AS RACE, RELIGION OR LIFESTYLE — THERE'S A 3RD GUY STANDIN THERE BEHIND A CURTAIN CONTROLLING IT ALL — AS "DONKO THE IRONWORKER" USED TO SAY "OPEN YOU HEART, PREPARE YOU ASS"!!!

— GRAFFITI ART MAYBE OVER 30 YRS OLD BUT GRAFFITI ARTISTS ARE STILL IN THEIR FORMING STAGES... WITH AGE COMES WISDOM EXCEPT IN MY CASE AS MY OLD MAN USE TO TELL ME.. "YOUR GROWIN OLDER BUT NOT ANY WISER"!! AND UNLIKE ROCK-N-ROLL WE CAN STILL BE DANGEROUS... AS A PEOPLE I'LL BE THE FIRST TO ADMIT WE'RE VERY STUPID BUT WHEN YOU BREAK IT DOWN & SEE HOW IT WAS CREATED BY KIDS OUT OF VIRTUALLY NOTHING WELL THAT TAKES SOME SMARTS —

— NOW I DONT KNOW IF IM A WRITERS, WRITER (I'LL SAVE THAT FOR "COPE") CAUSE I DONT CLAIM ANYTHING — IM NOT INTO CREWS & I GENERALLY DONT LIKE WRITERS AS PEOPLE, BUT I WILL SAY I LOVE WHAT WE DO.... WHEN ME & "COST" WERE BOMBIN, WE COULD'VE TOOK A CREW OF 10 OR 20 GUYS OUT CAUSE THATS HOW GOOD OUR GAME WAS. — SO WHY DO YOU NEED PEOPLE?? LEARN ABOUT THE "ZERO THEORY" TO ENLIGHTEN YOURSELF.... I'D RATHER SEE SOMEONE'S TOYEST SHIT ON A WALL, THEN THEIR BEST SHIT ON CANVAS!

— TO ME GRAFFITI IS AN "OUTSIDE ART" CREATED BY TRUE OUTSIDERS — I'LL NEVER FIX MY SHIT — I'D RATHER SEE IT WEATHER, FADE OR BE ALTERED BY SOMEONE WITH INDEPENDANT THOUGHTS — THATS GRAFFITI TO ME!!! ITS A "HOME GROWN" (COURTESY OF BT, NYC) OPERATION — IF MY SHIT SUCKS, ITS ALL ME & IF MY SHITS HALF DECENT WELL THEN I GOT LUCKY THAT DAY!!!



— THE DAYS ARE GONE OF THOSE EARLY SUNDAY MORNIN
MEETINGS AT THE CANDY STORE ON 79ST & 3AVE IN BAY RIDGE ..
WINTER, DRESSED IN A HOODED SWEATSHIRT & DUNGAREE JACKET WITH
A BAG FULL OF PAINT, HOMEMADE BOMBERS, & REFILL INK CANS — "YO,
WHO GOT THE TRAIN KEY ?? — THEN ITS OFF TO CHECK OUT THE 4AVE
LAY-UPS — IT WAS 20° OUTSIDE BUT TOASTY IN THE TUNNELS!!
— IN HARD WINTER IT WOULD BE "PACKED" FROM 59ST TO PACIFIC ST
& SOMETIMES "DOUBLE-TRACK"!! — A LOT OF THE INSIDES ON THE BMT'S
CAME FROM THOSE LAY-UPS — LIGHTS WOULD BE OFF & IT WAS DARK
& SCARY — YOU DIDNT KNOW WHAT TO EXPECT BUT YOU'D BE READY
FOR ANYTHING. — AND THEN THE SMELL...... AND THE SOUND OF
THE TRAIN GOIN "BRRRRRRR... CHEEEEE.... AS IT SAT...
— IT WAS A BLACK & WHITE EXPERIENCE !!!

— MAN, THINGS HAVE REALLY CHANGED — NOW, ITS UP AT
4AM, PUT ON THE CARHARTS & INSTEAD OF THE INK & PAINT,
ITS SPUD WRENCHES!!! DAMN IM JUST AS DIRTY AS I WAS BACK
THEN EXCEPT NOW IM A FULL FLEDGED WORKIN SLOB —
— SAME ROUTINE EVERYDAY.... WORK, EAT, SLEEP, WORK, EAT
SLEEP UNTIL EVERYDAY IS THE SAME — EVEN THOUGH I LOVE
WORKIN THE IRON, IT IN NO WAY COMPARES TO THE THRILL OF
GRAFITI — BUT THATS THE CHOICE I MADE OR, SHOULD I SAY WAS
FORCED INTO — "YO, WHATCHU WRITE..!!!!!

— SOME PEOPLE DECIDED TO USE THEIR TALENTS (IF YOU CAN
CALL IT THAT) TO MAKE MONEY & AVOID MY DILEMMA —
GRAFITI FOR MONEY — I UNDERSTAND "YOU GOTTA DO WHAT YOU
GOTTA DO" BUT I REALLY GET A KICK OUT OF HOW SOME PEOPLE
WENT FROM BEIN STREET-KIDS TO "ART-TEETS" IN THE
PROCESS & HOW CONCERNED THEY ARE TO BE RECOGNIZED OR
LEGITIMATE!! — I GUESS IM THE RED HEADED BASTARD
STEP-CHILD!!!!!!!

— So i thought the concept of this book might be OK but you never know until it comes out – it might suck! But i saw his photos before hand + there real good – now it all depends on how its produced – i hope the photos stay 11x14 cause anything smaller is half steppin + possibly TOY!! — True, who wants to see writers faces except the cops.... cause it can only help them out + believe me they dont need any more help than what you "jack-asses" are givin them – let them work for their money like i work for mine! the hard way!!! But at the same time i wanna see us elevate ourselves cause if you think about it if you've really committed a crime, a real crime, you wouldnt take a photograff of it cause its not somethin your proud of — but we photograff all our stuff cause were proud of it so how could somethin your proud of "be a crime"?? — it may sound skewed but thats the way i see it! — Hardcore graffiti can be a self destructive lifestyle but the way i look at it, we all have the GOD givin right to destroy ourselves!! not me on you, but me on me!

— Good or bad, its got to be reconized!!

— So many people have paved the way before us, from the toys to the legends — something has been made out of nothing — and its still evolving + in my opinion its got a long way to go before it gets maxed out!

— its a long distance race – you just gotta do your time – 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60 yrs with passion + belief + youll get yours — How can you deny someone whose dedicated their whole life to somethin? — whether its carpentry, skateboardin, music, racin, or writin for that matter — just do somethin, anything, but do it with belief + for the right reasons + you will not be denied!!

— THE TRUTH always HAS A WAY OF COMIN OUT & IF YOU DO THINGS FOR THE right REASONS IT will COME OUT —

— THE MAIN AVENUE WE STILL NEED TO RUN DOWN IS OURSELVES — GETTIN TO THE CORE OF THE MATTER BEHIND ALL THE colors — WHO WE really ARE AS INDIVIDUALS — ITS NOT really ABOUT TRYIN TO USE PEANUT SHELLS, PANTY-HOSE & GUM WRAPPERS TO MAKE original graffiti — IF ITS IN YOU, THEN its in you!!

— TRUE WILD STYLE COMES FROM WITHIN!! A FEW people HAVE SAID TO ME OVER THE YEARS "BUT YOU DID IT WITH SO MANY DIFFERENT THINGS: WHEATPASTIN, ROLLERS, ~~CANVAS~~ BOLTED UP CANVAS PIECIN" "YOU KEEP REINVENTING YOURSELF" "BUT I DONT LOOK AT IT LIKE THAT — WHEN I WAS 18 I DID THE CHECKERBOARD PIECE — I USED A PILOT, BUCKET PAINT & MASKING TAPE — ITS IN MY NATURE & MORE THAN THAT... IM FUCKED UP!!! AND ILL USE WHATEVER I FEEL LIKE, WHENEVER I FEEL LIKE — IM NOT TRYIN TO REINVENT MYSELF! THIS IS JUST HOW I AM — IM NOT INTO RULES OR GRAFFITI TRENDS & CHANCES ARE IF YOUR DOIN SOMETHIN, THEN IM GONNA DO THE EXACT OPPOSITE CAUSE IM NOT LOOKIN TO BECOME SOMEBODY OR CLIMB THE GRAFFITI WHORE LADDER!! "ESPO" SAID IT RIGHT WHEN HE SAID "EVERYONES GETTIN THEMSELVES A GIMMICK" & NOW THEYRE RUNNIN WITH IT THINKIN THEYRE "PICCASSO" BUT really ITS NOTHIN special — JUST DIME A DOZEN SHIT WITH A LABEL OF 1 OF 100 MADE — SO THAT YOU'LL BUY IT THINKIN your gettin A collectors ITEM — "THE GREAT ROCK-N-ROLL SWINDLE REHASHED!!

— ITS GOOD TO SEE A KID LIKE "NOV" TRYIN TO DO SOMETHIN AT LEAST HES TRYIN TO GET TO THE CORE — ILL give him AN "A" FOR EFFORT — INSTEAD OF "YO, CHECK THE STYLE, YO! I USED A "1977 RING AROUND MY DICK yellow" & A "BLUE BALLS 1965 TESTORS CAN"!..... SAVE IT FOR SOMEBODY WHO gives A SHIT.............

— Which brings me back to the truth… whatever that may be — the great thing about the world we live in is that it takes all kinds… the toys, the bombers, the burners, the outlaws, the legal eagles, the cheeseballs & the hardcore (OK we could use a lot less cheeseballs!!) But as "Nuke" says "its needed" —

— The people in this book are all individuals 1st but all share a common thread — Some people i know personally or know of their work & respect it and some i dont know & never wanna know! & like i say it all comes down to motives — and unfortunately theres a lot of guys in our profession with faulty motives — & if your confused then listen to "Skeme"! —

— What you have to realize is we're actually men even though most of us still act like kids, the unfortunate truth is we are grown men (believe me, i still cant believe it!!) so put some effort into your shit & forget about the "take the money & run, graffiti for dollars philosophy" — Run an operation where you hit em & hit em hard — we need to be paintin 5, 10, 20 story buildings top to bottom with somethin to say — doin shit thats gonna last the test of time — where none of these people in power, (the art critics, historians or politicians) can discount your existence! — ~~Publish yourself~~ write a book, publish it yourself… work 3 jobs if you have to! Get the tools so you can paint a 10 story building!! just put effort into what you do cause your name is the only thing you got — and remember… theres a story behind every face in this world and in that story are truth & lies:

— lets just get to the truth!! — *in memory of my best friend… Joe Young
2/26/93 – 5/20/03

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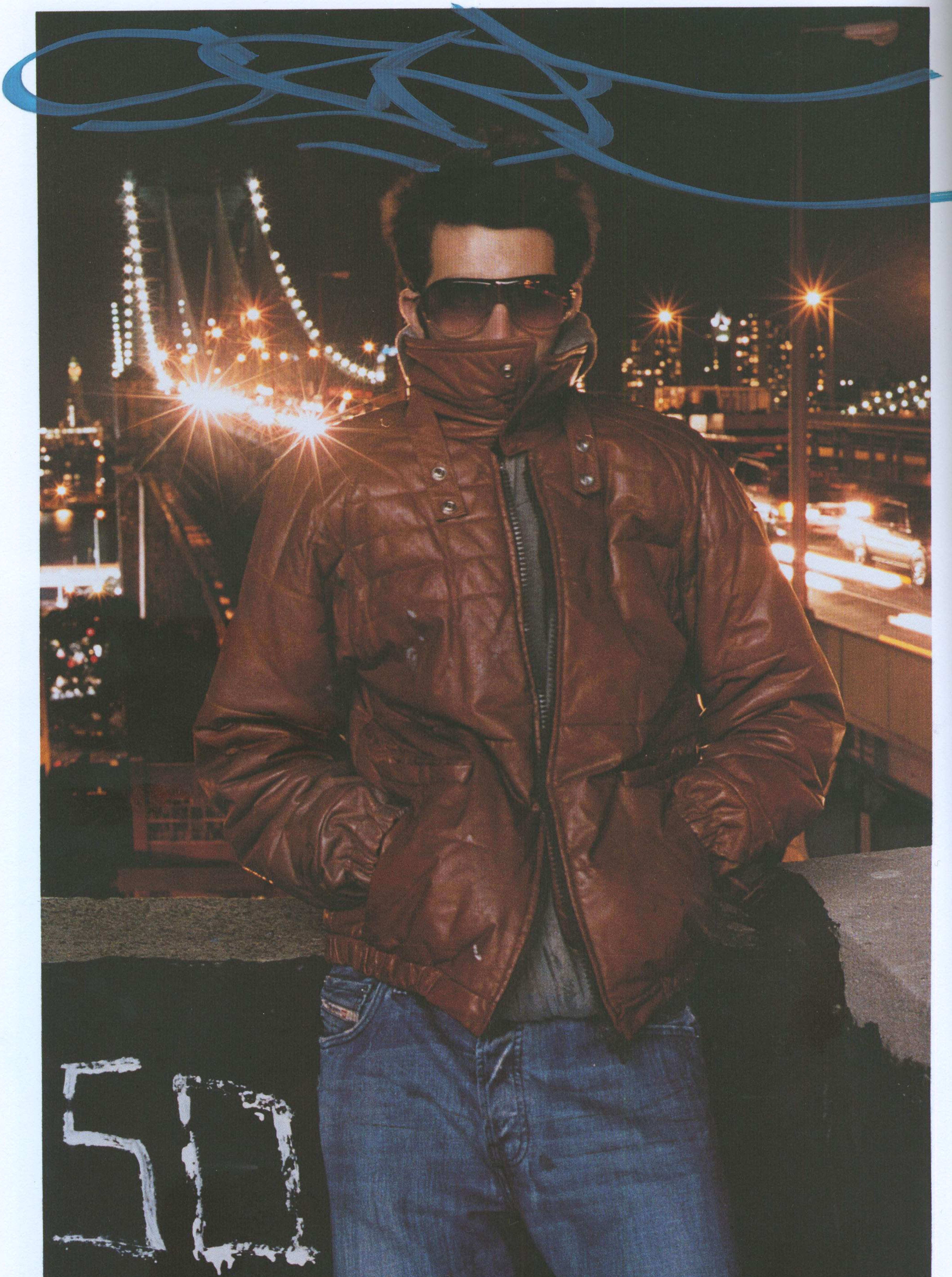

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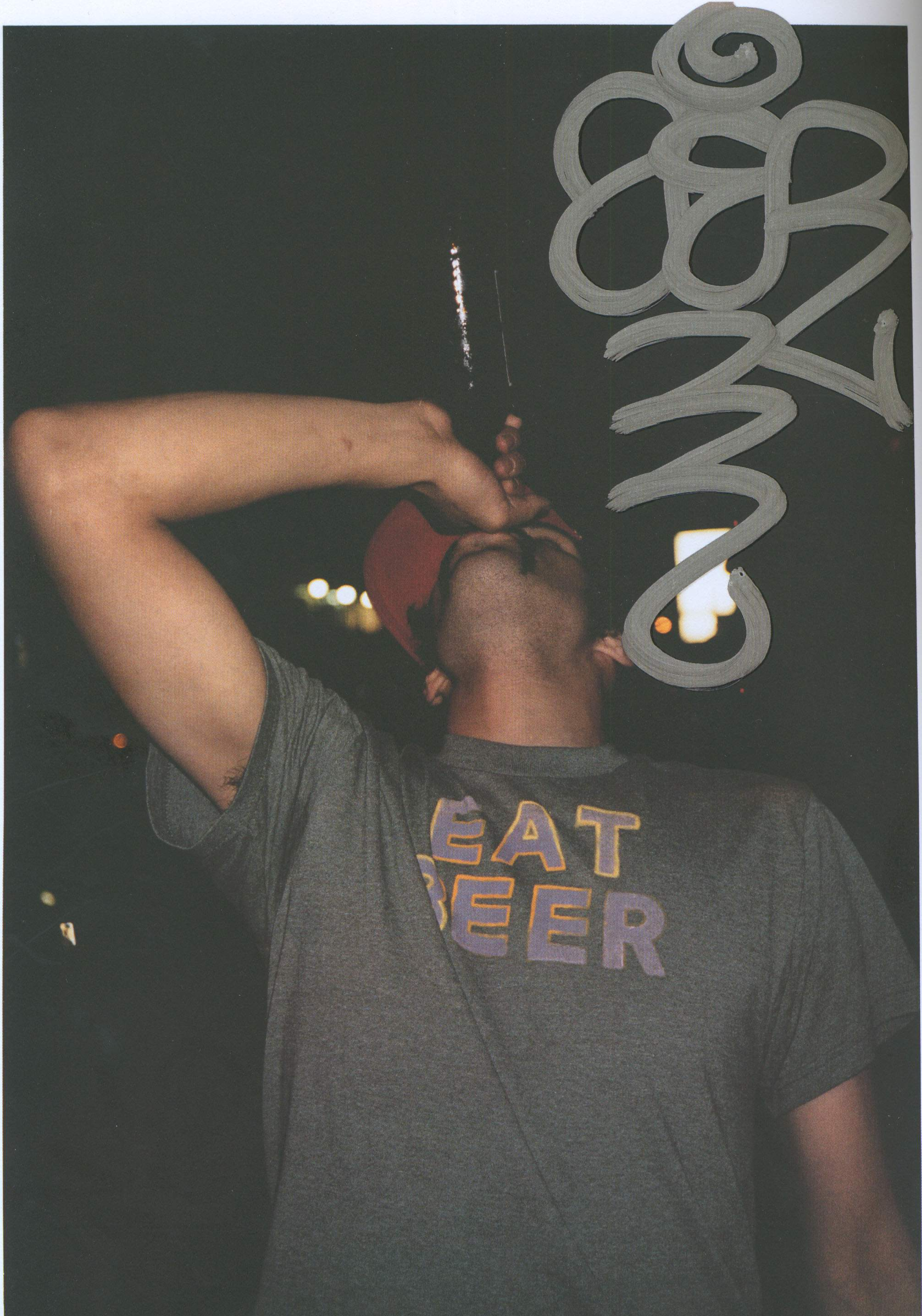

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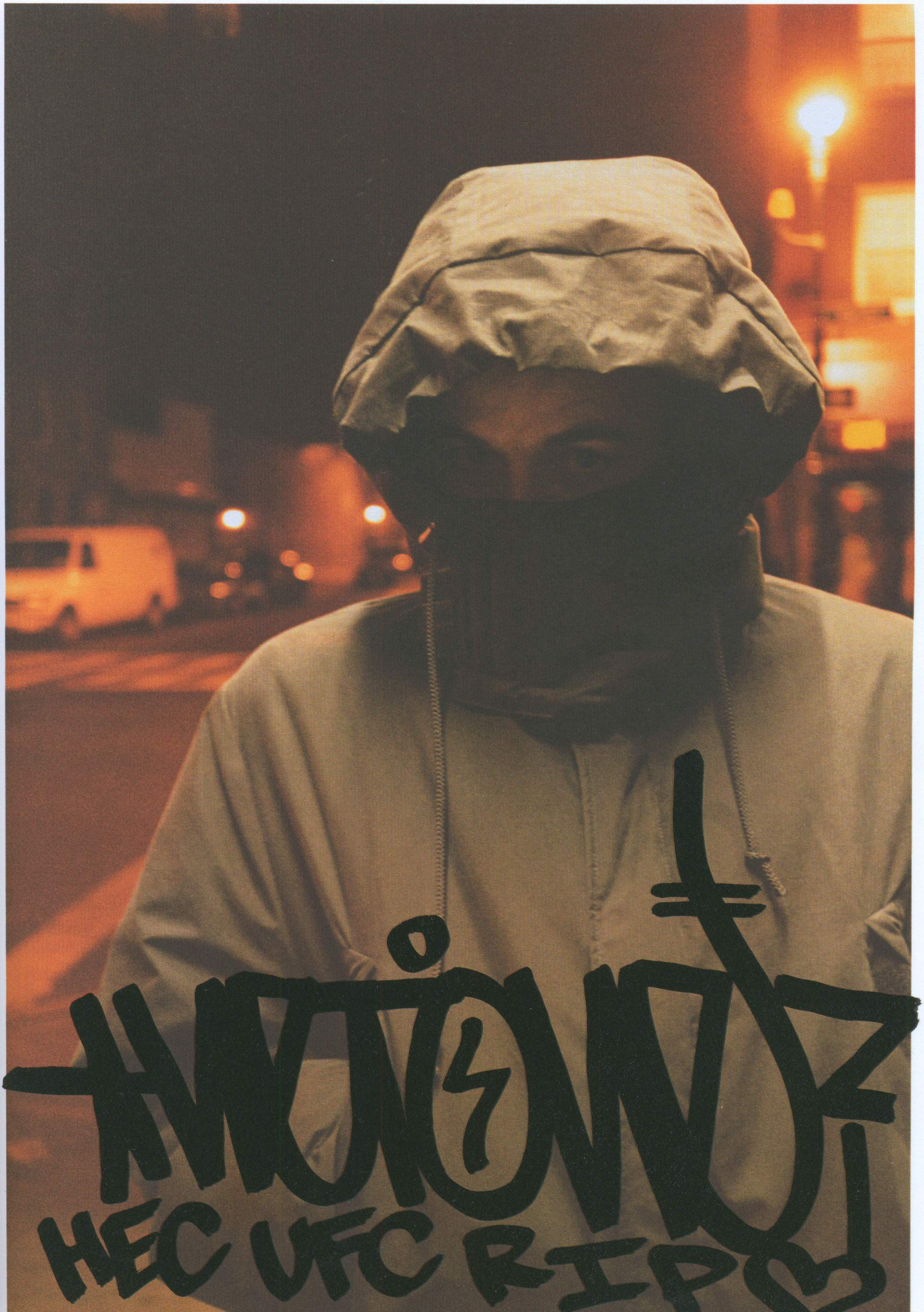
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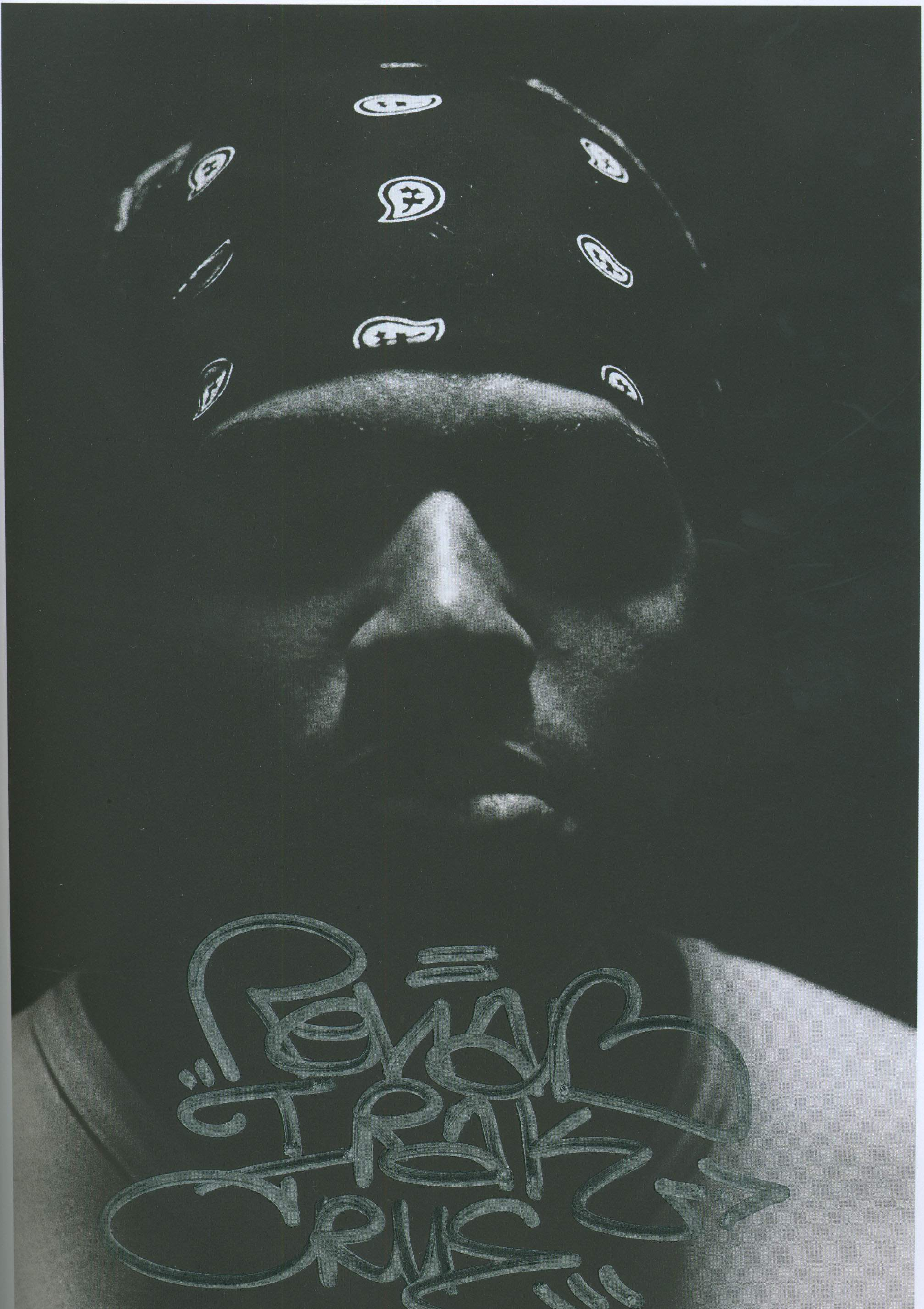

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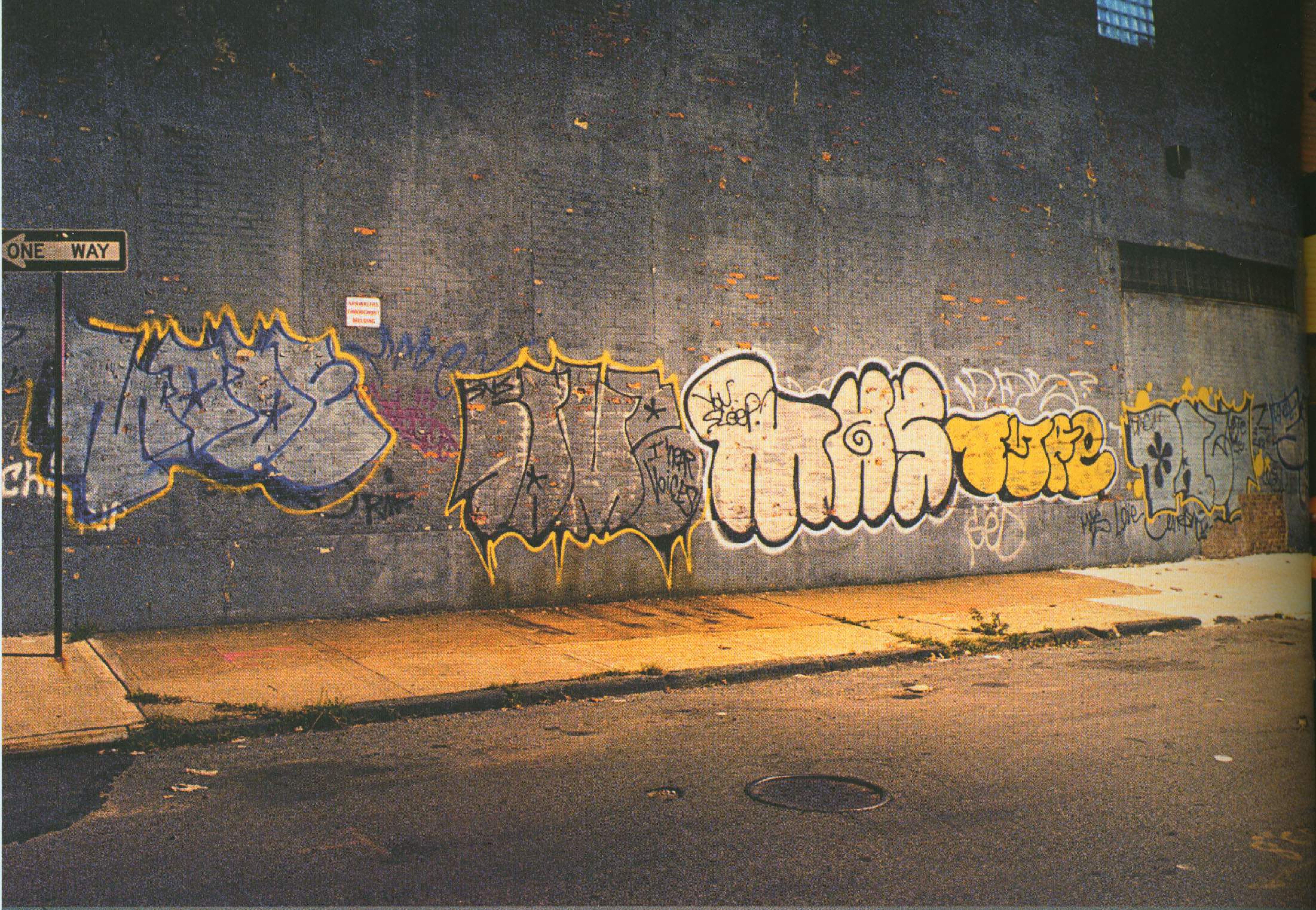
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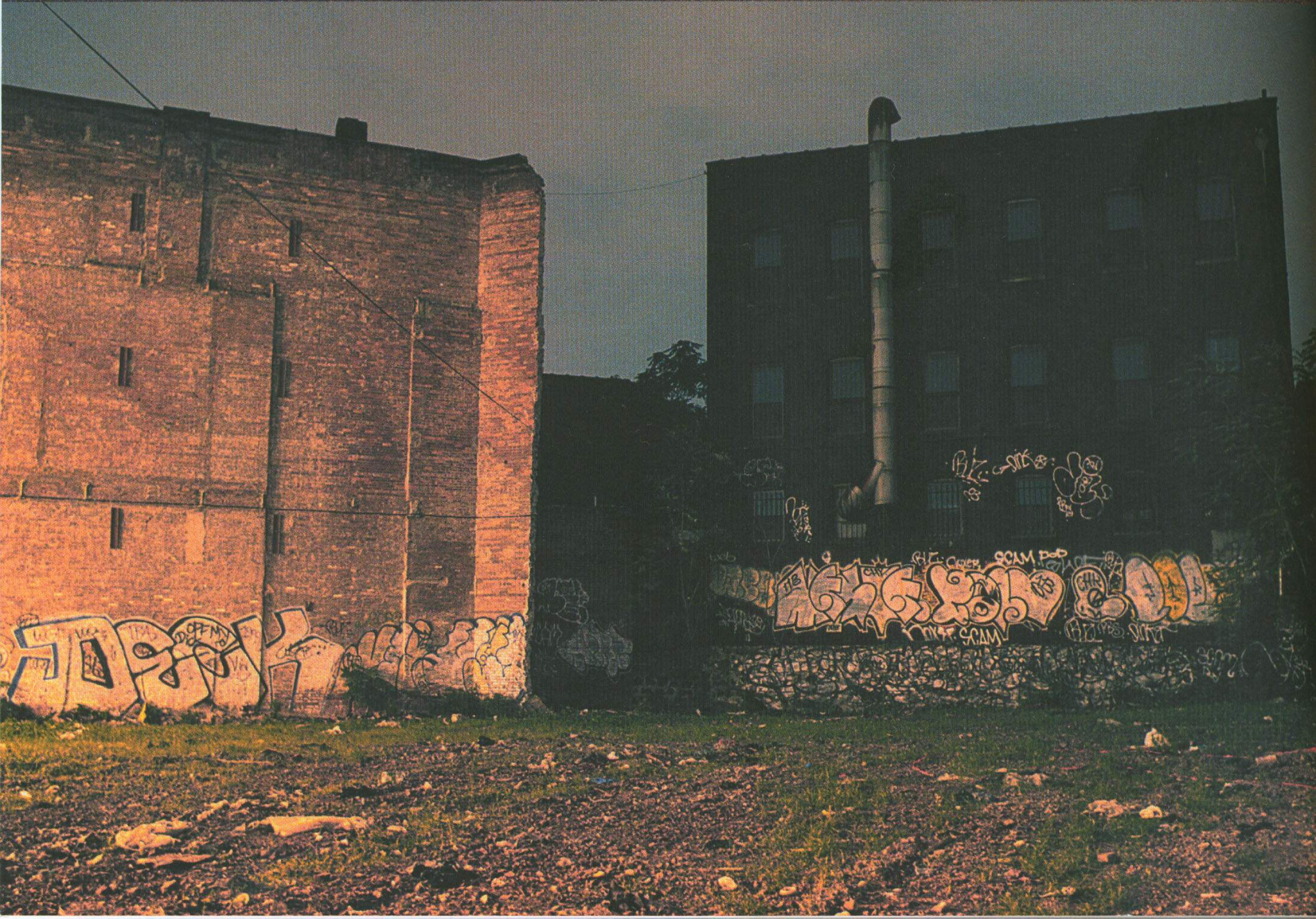

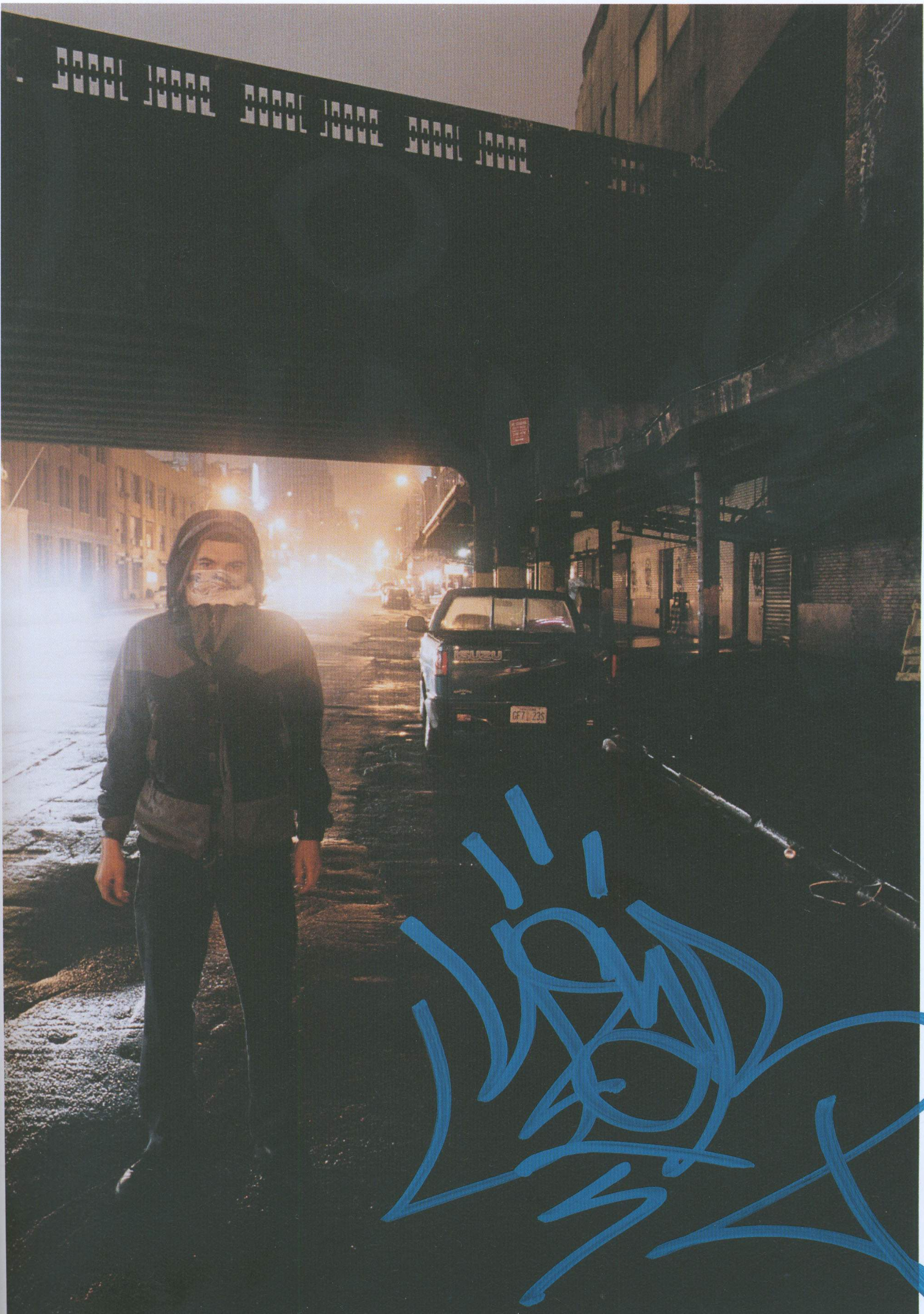
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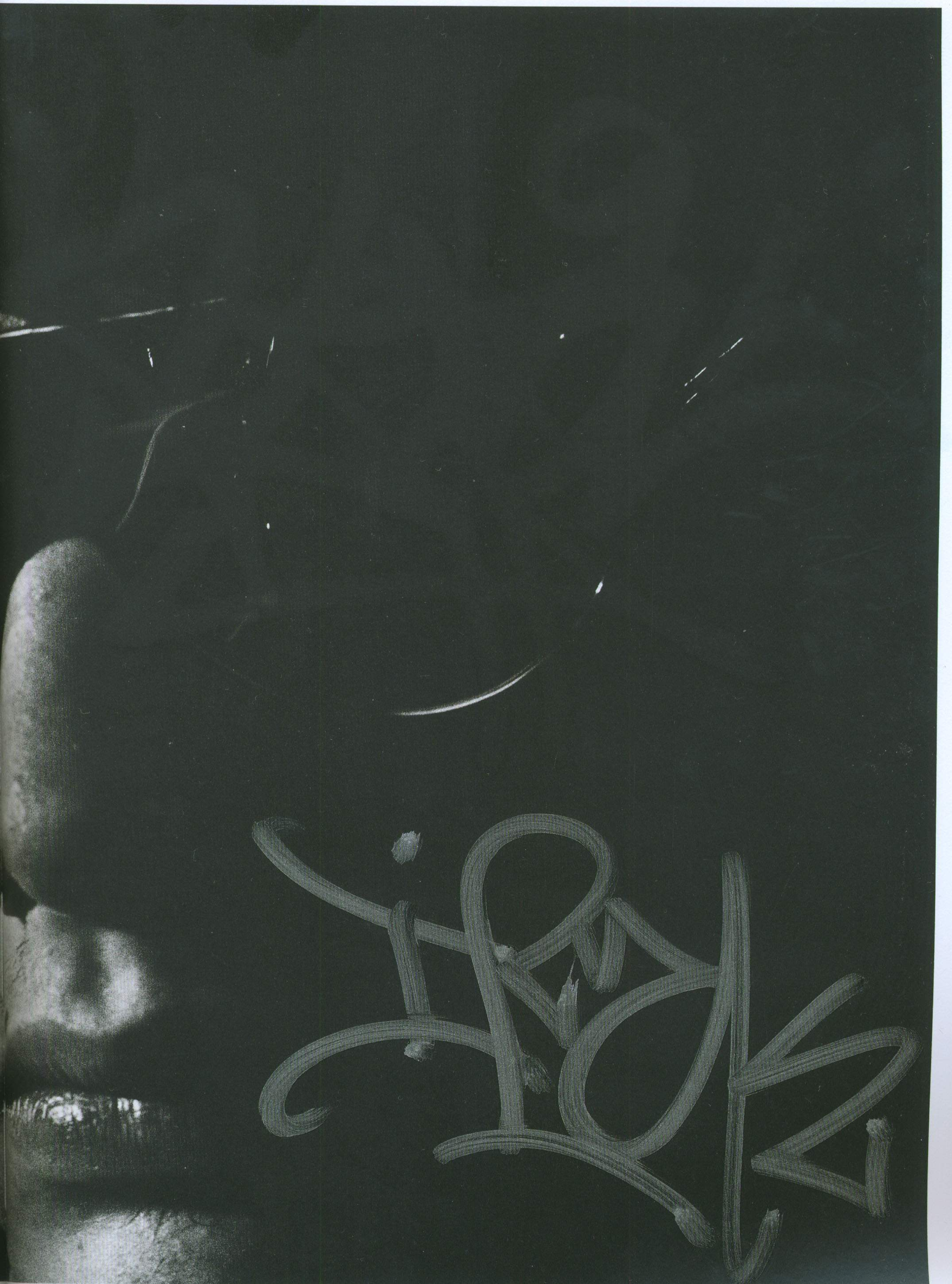

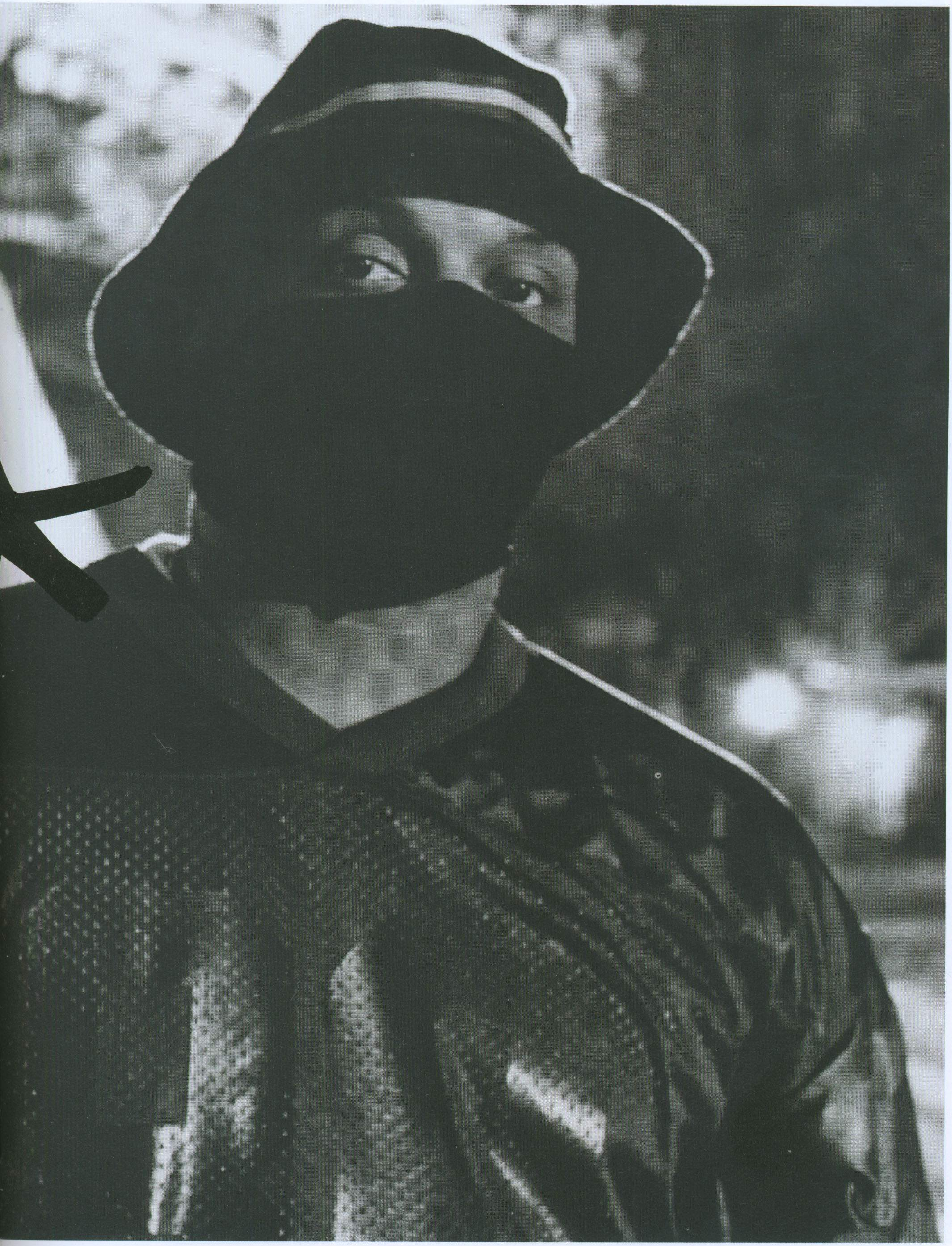

Autograf was photographed in New York City over the course of three years, 2001–2004. It was an honor to meet and work with the people involved with this book.

Thanks to: all graffiti writers pictured, Miss Rosen, Daniel Power, Craig Cohen, Kiki Bauer, Francesca Richer, Gerhard Stochl, Kevin Trageser, Andrew Sutherland, Jan Sutherland, Don and Kim Umphrey, Earl and Evelyn Umphrey, NATO, REVS, PEZ, LASE, CLAW, VFRESH, DSENSE, EARSNOT, SERF, MINT, RD, KEL, 5MH Crew, Alexander Nedo at Die Gestalten Verlag GmbH, Angela Boatwright and Adrian Moeller at *Mass Appeal*, Sarah and Guillaume at colette, Johann Haehling von Lanzenauer at Cc:room (Circleculture Cc:), *LODOWN*, ALIFE, Brian Scotto, Kristi Gamble, Clay Weiner, Taka Kawachi, Ana Lombardo, Matt Clark, Mai Lathai, Angie Lee, Helen Stickler, Linda Lee, Small Dark Room, Diapositive Lab, Silver Warner, PSYOP, Educated Community, Jack Youngelson, Woo Cho, David Leslie, Shepard Fairey, Roger Gastman, Dana Albarella, Patrick McMullan, Charles Peterson, Ari Marcopoulos, José Ortiz, Kristian Orozco, Daniel Buckley, Katherine Aguilar, Emily Power, Jane Catucci, Jamie Hardy.

I dedicate this book to my dad....
Peter Wingate Sutherland (1945–2000).

—Peter Sutherland
New York City, January 2004

Peter Sutherland is a filmmaker and photographer who was born in Ann Arbor, Michigan in 1976 and raised in Colorado. A move to New York City in 1998 prompted his first feature documentary, *Pedal*, a film about the city's bike messengers that airs on the Sundance Channel. Sutherland also worked as director of photography on *Stoked: The Rise and Fall of Gator*, a documentary about Gator, a famous skateboarder who was convicted of murder in 1991. Directed by Helen Stickler, *Stoked* premiered at the 2003 Sundance Film Festival, and was released theatrically by Palm Pictures in August 2003. Sutherland is a contributing photographer to magazines including *Vice*, *Tokion*, and *Nylon*, and has done commercial photographic work for Nike and Vice Records. He has shown his work at the Rivington Arms gallery and at 255 Elizabeth Space, both in New York. Sutherland lives and works in New York City.

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FTH
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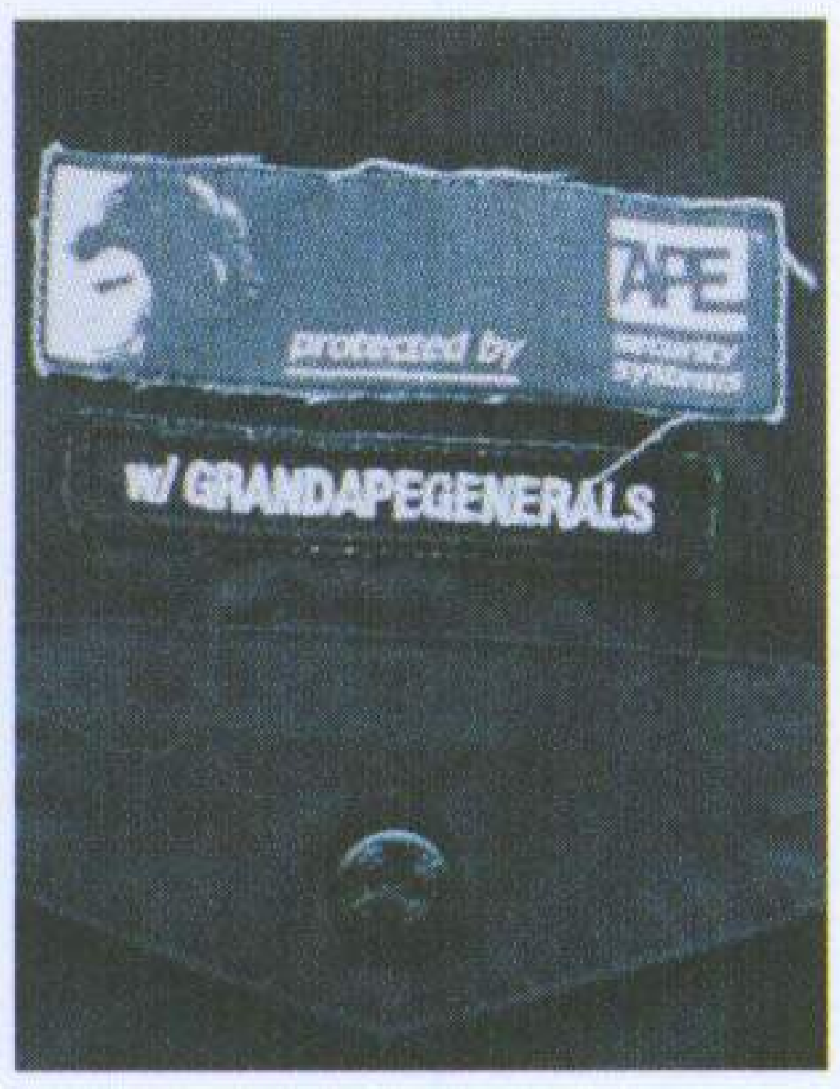
BETS
CM1
CLASS
BETS
CM1
FTH

SHAOLIN!
NO PARKING

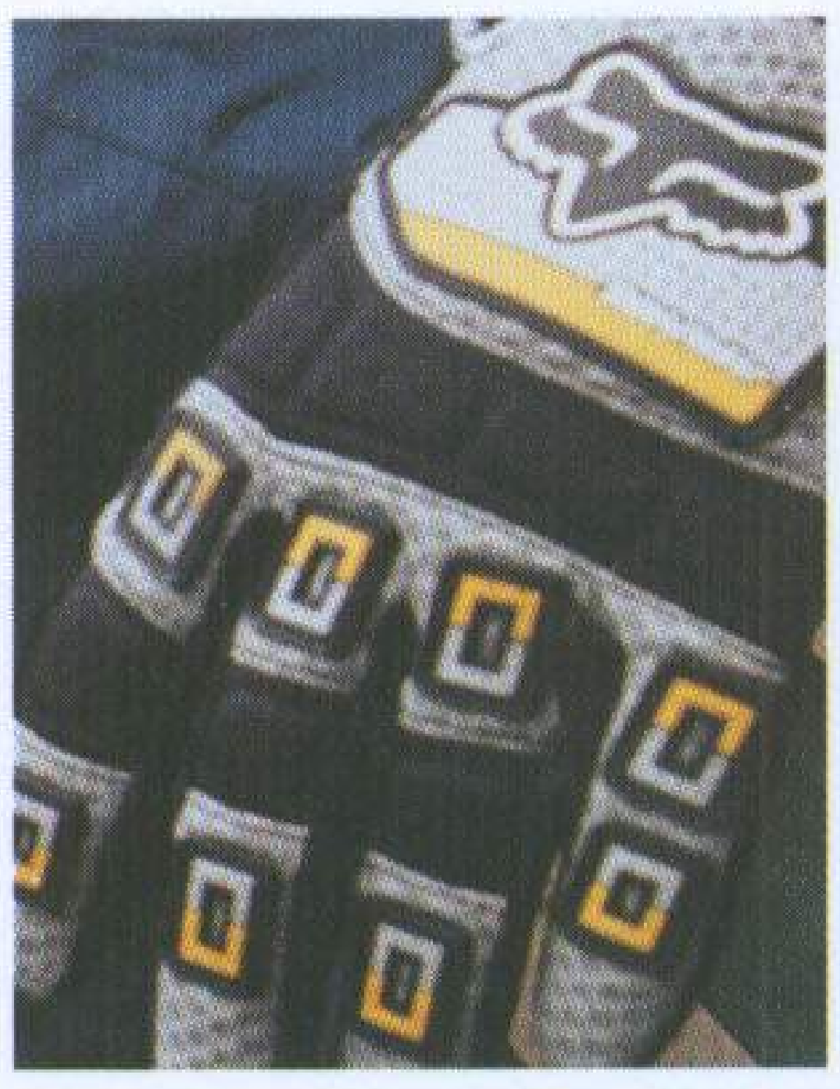
NYPD

Cyle *
the cool
"5"

MOSCO
Manhattan 2002


APE
protected by
w/ GRANDAPEGENERALS
FUTURA
Brooklyn 2002

GEN 2
Brooklyn 2002


PEZ
Manhattan 2001

SARE
Manhattan 2001

AMERIC
CCEN
RATE
Manhattan 2002

MINT
Manhattan 2001

CINIK
Manhattan 2001

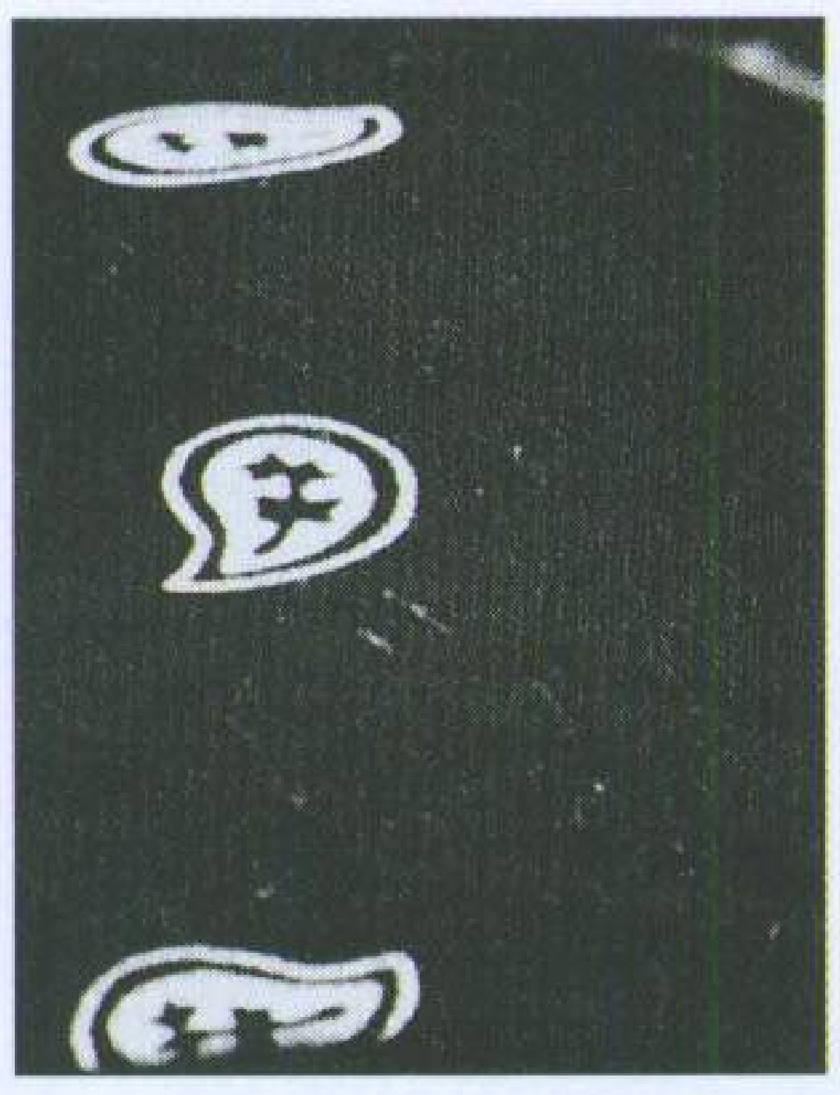
SERF
Manhattan 2001

SINCE
Manhattan 2002

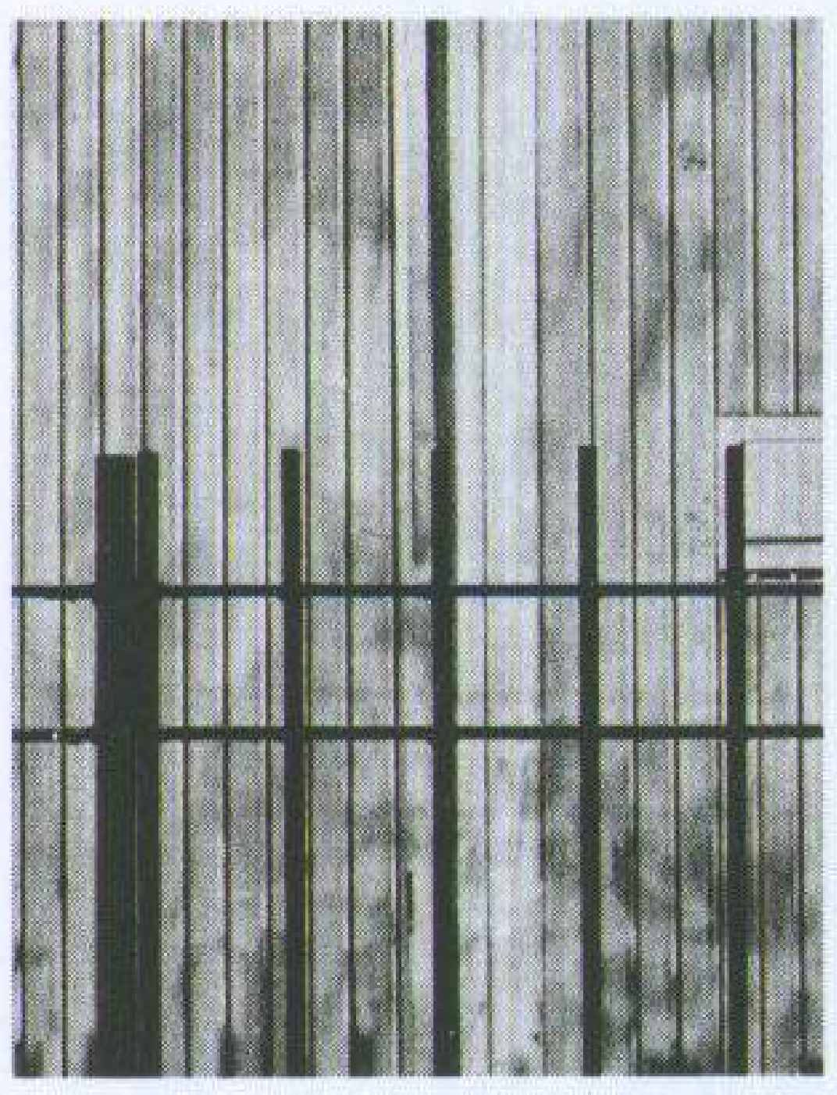
ZER
Manhattan 2003

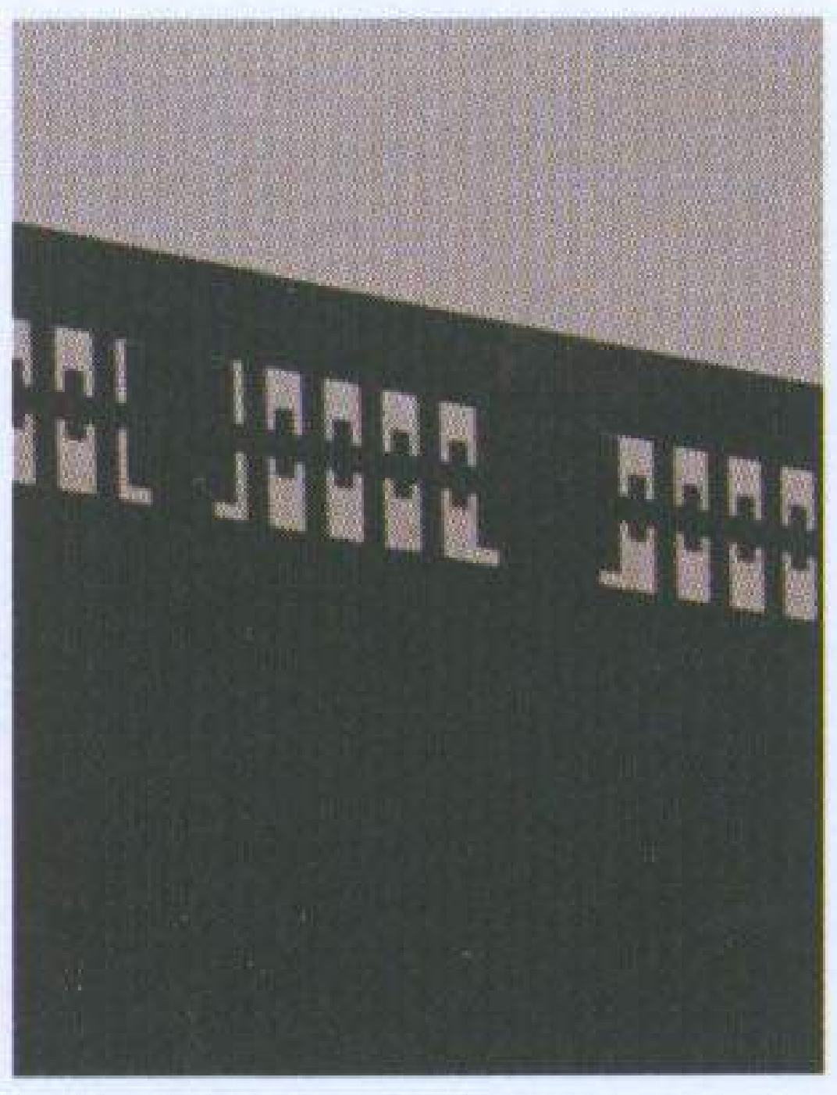
NET
Brooklyn 2002

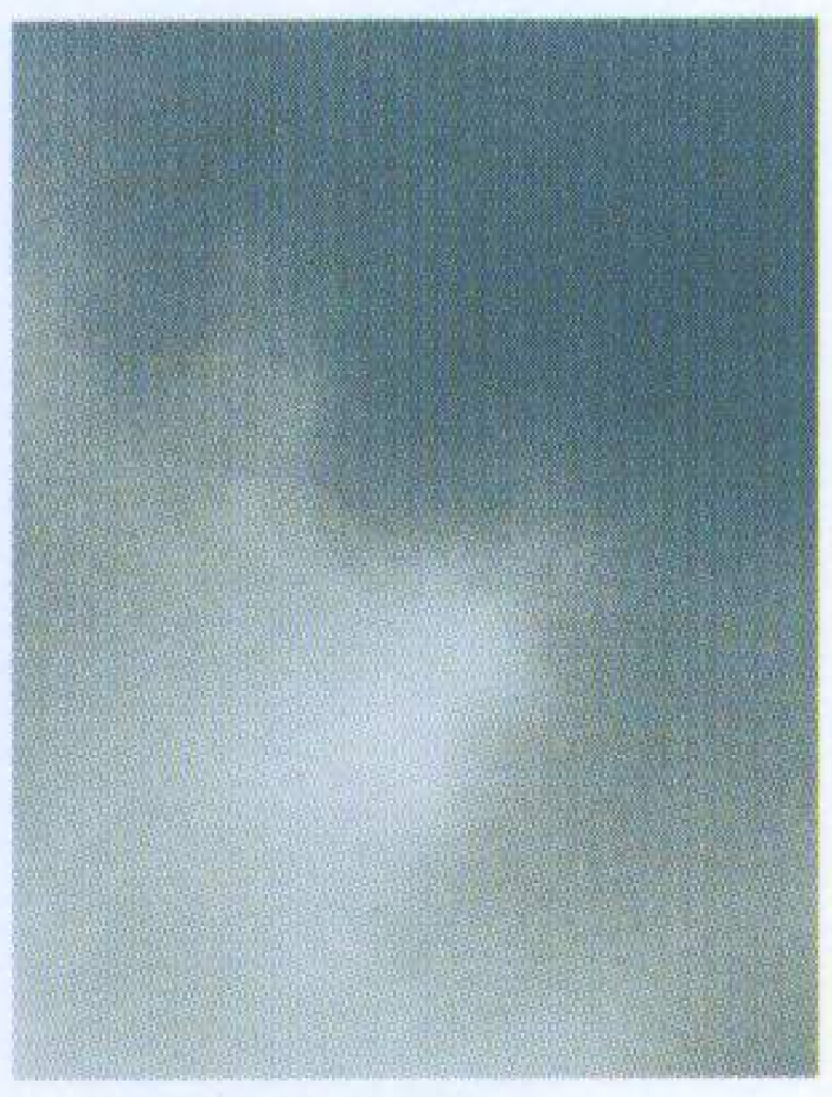
MADE/SAME
Manhattan 2002


REHAB
Manhattan 2002

GOAL
Manhattan 2001


KECH
Manhattan 2002

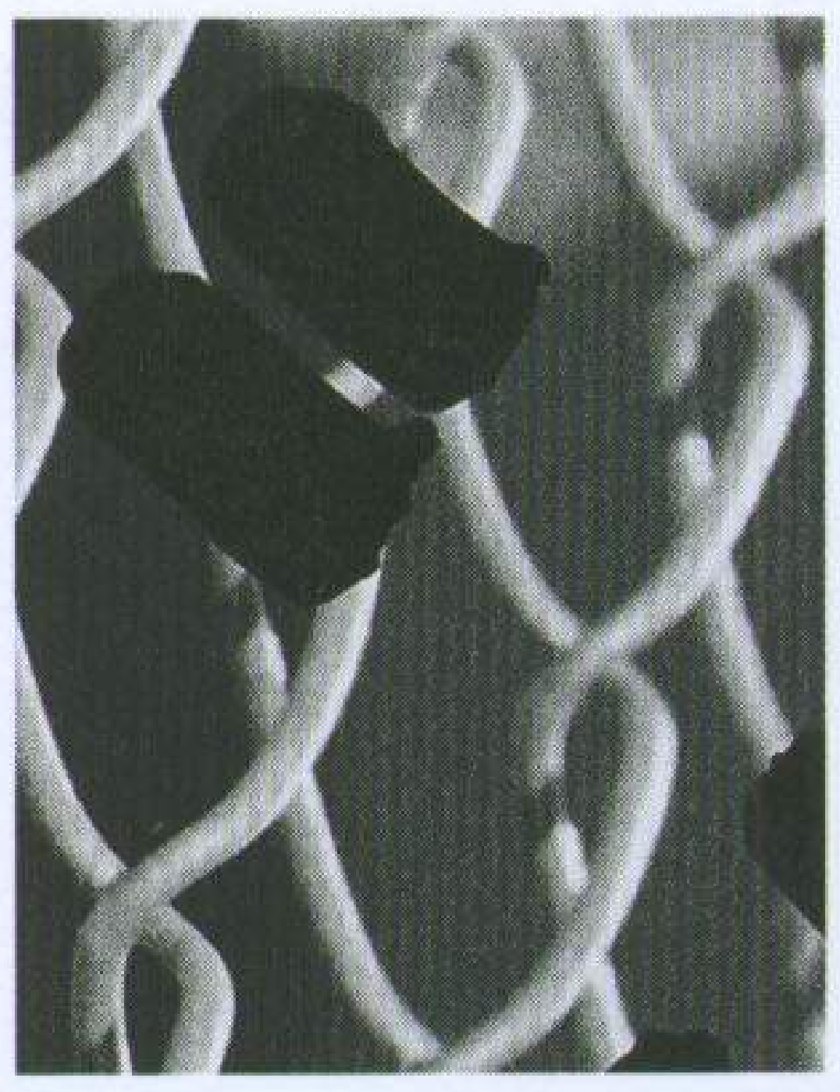

YEAR
Manhattan 2002

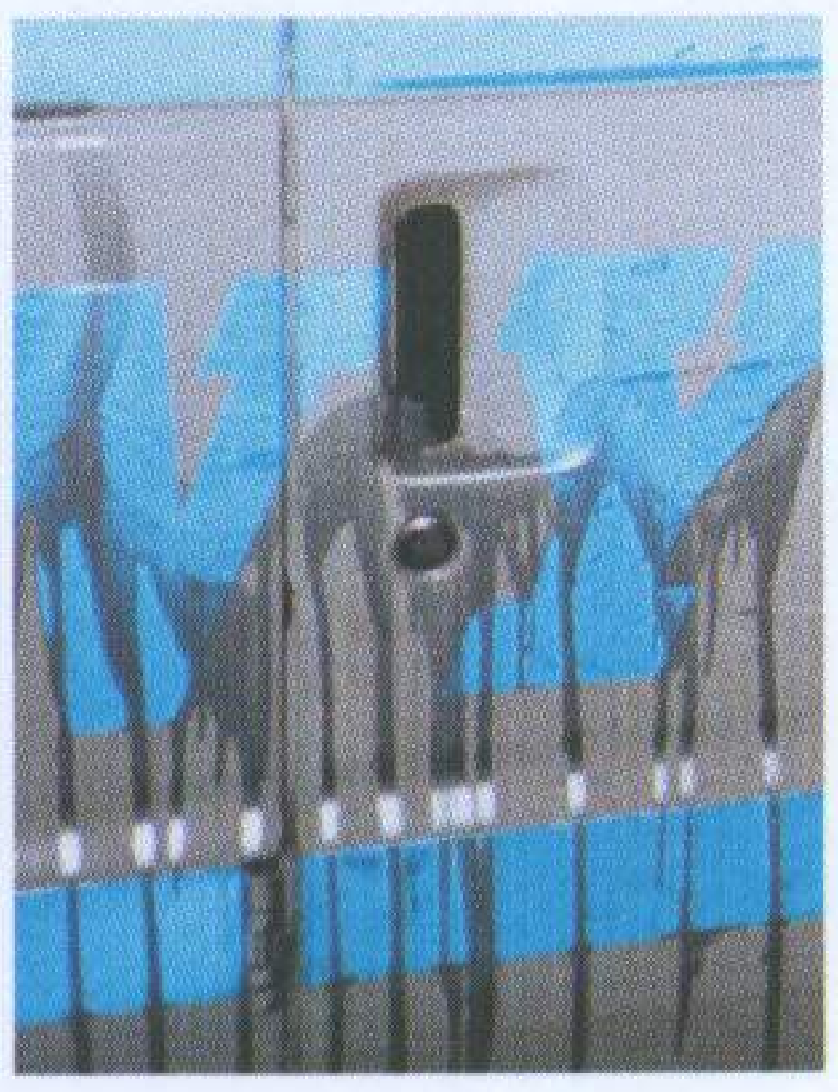

FANTA
Manhattan 2001

AREA
Manhattan 2001

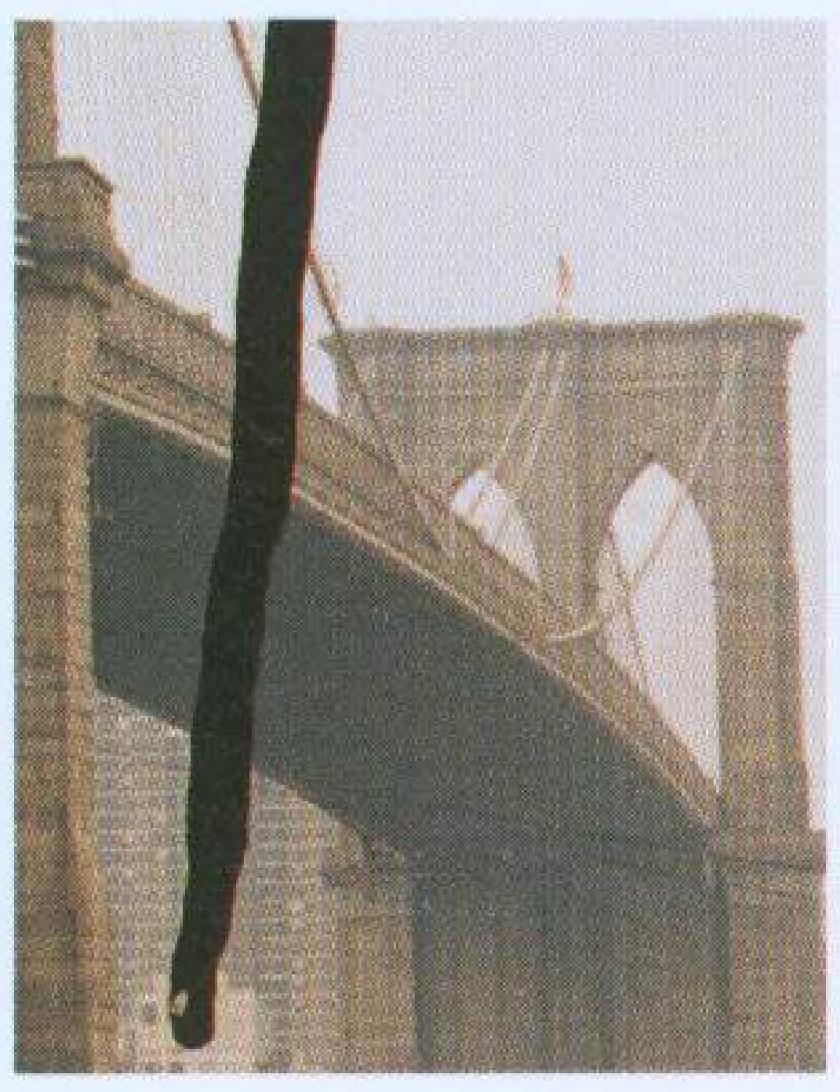
COPE 2
Bronx 2002

DECK
Manhattan 2002


VFRESH
Manhattan 2002


CYCLE
Manhattan 2002

MERZ
Brooklyn 2001



KR
Brooklyn 2001

323
Brooklyn 2002

KORN
Manhattan 2002

EWOK
Manhattan 2002

KAWS
Brooklyn 2002

JEST
Manhattan 2002

OZE 108
Brooklyn 2003

DONA
Manhattan 2003

kyo. AN ARMY OF THREE

STAY HIGH 149
Manhattan 2002

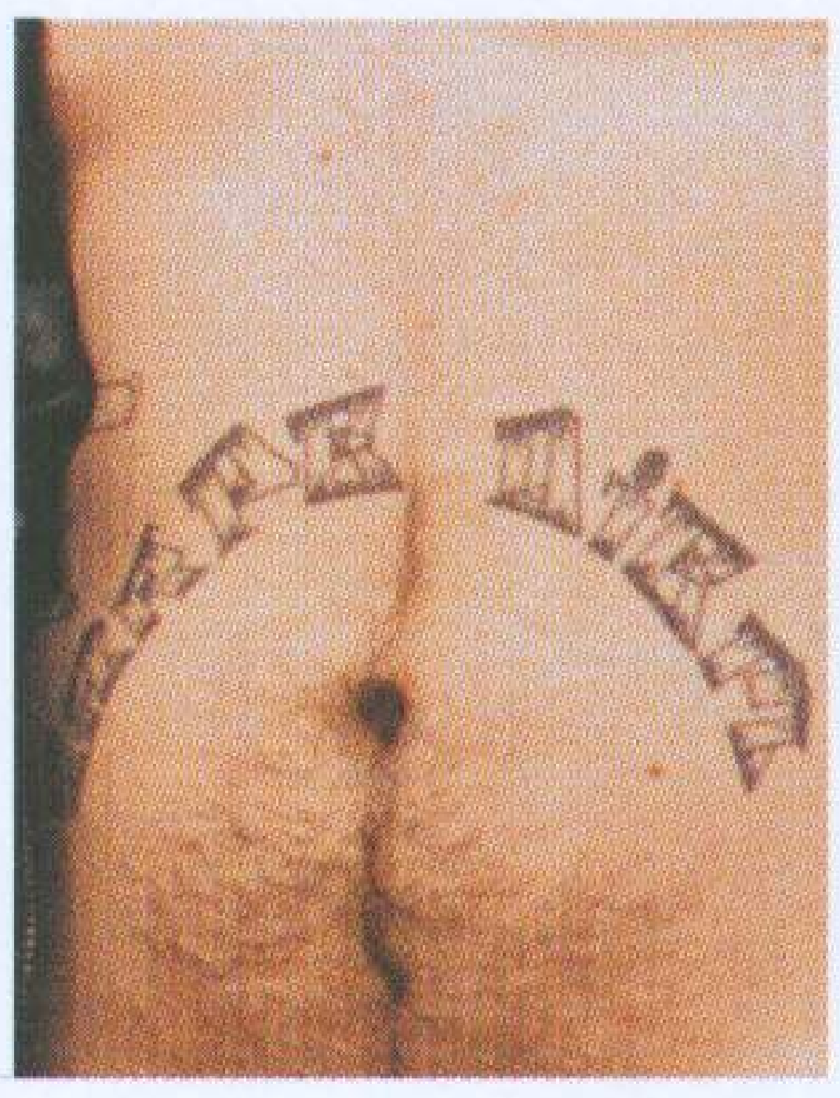
DOZE
Manhattan 2002

REVS
Brooklyn 2003

CLAW
Manhattan 2003

MYNOCK 21
Manhattan 2001

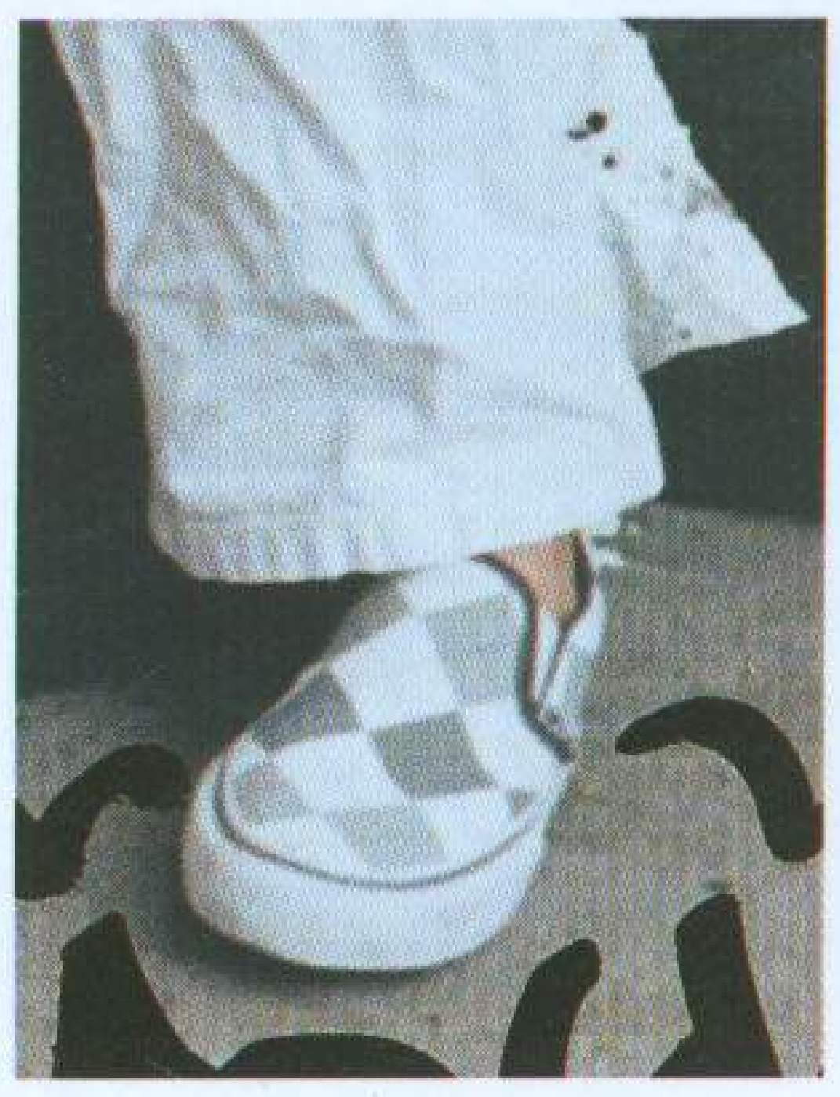
EARSNOT
Manhattan 2001



SEMZ
Manhattan 2002

KSER
Manhattan 2001

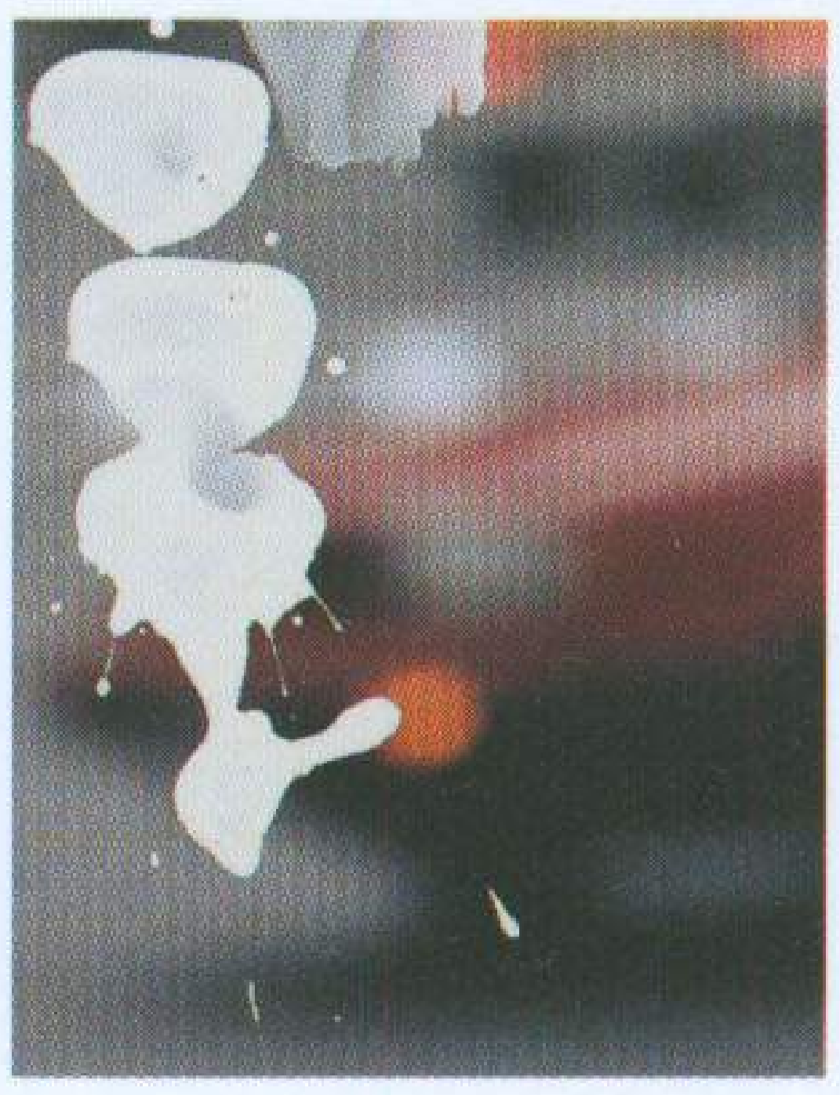
SEMEN
Manhattan 2002



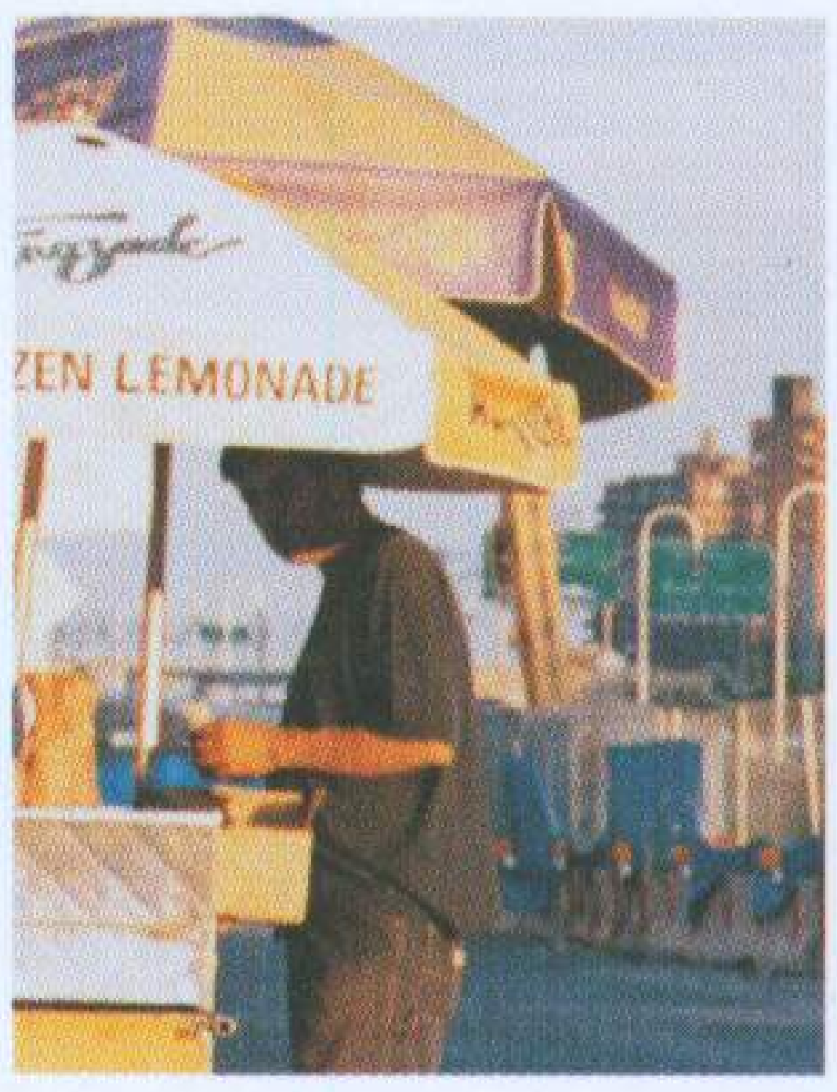
SACER
Manhattan 2001

UFO
Manhattan 2002

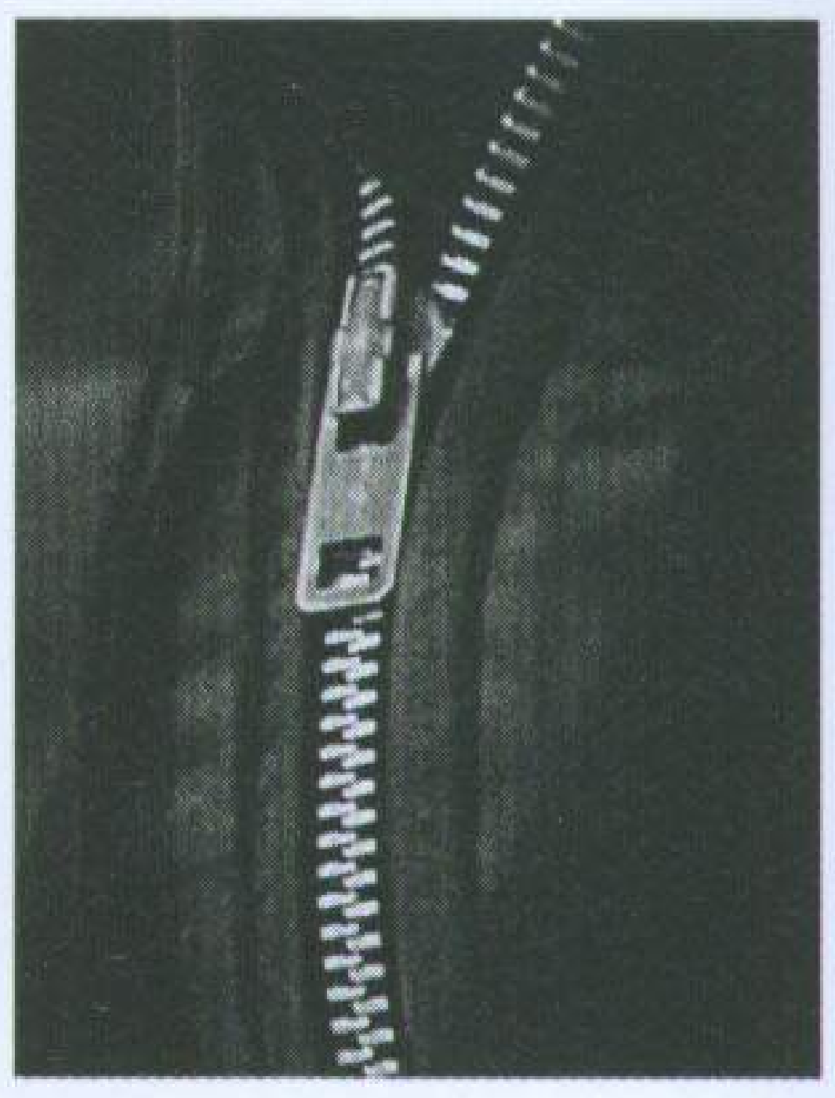
PEEK/DIVA
Brooklyn 2002



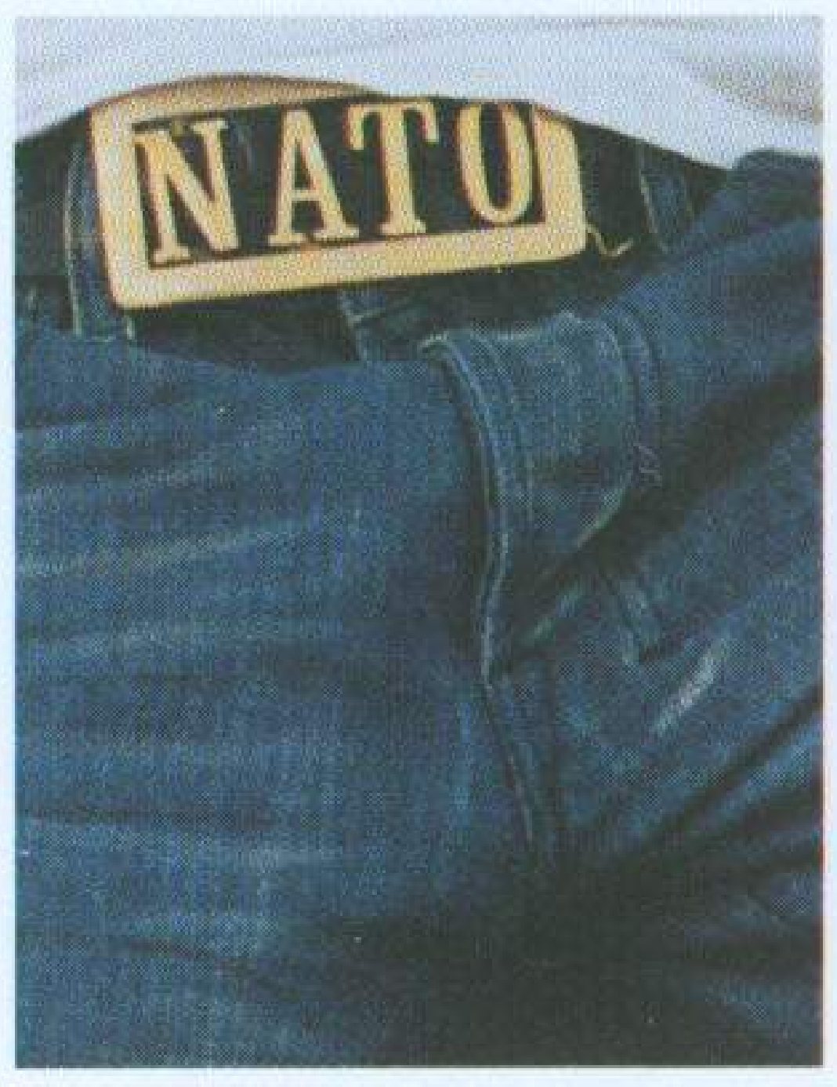
DSENSE
Manhattan 2002



GLACER
Manhattan 2002



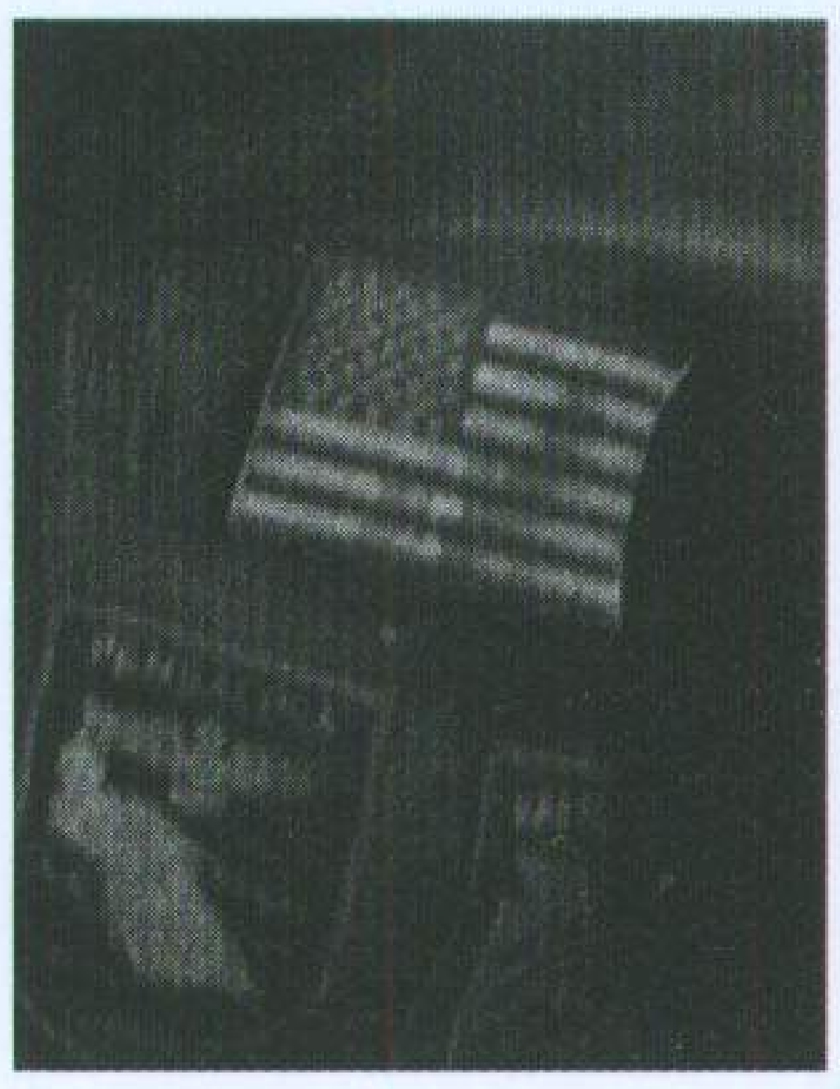
NYMZ
Manhattan 2001



NATO
Queens 2002

JAKEE
Brooklyn 2002

ARTZ
Manhattan 2001



MUK
Brooklyn 2002

LASE
Manhattan 2002

LADY PINK
Queens 2003

AUTOGRAF

New York City's Graffiti Writers

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